

THIS IS *Fairfield*

1639



1940

ELIZABETH V. H. BANKS







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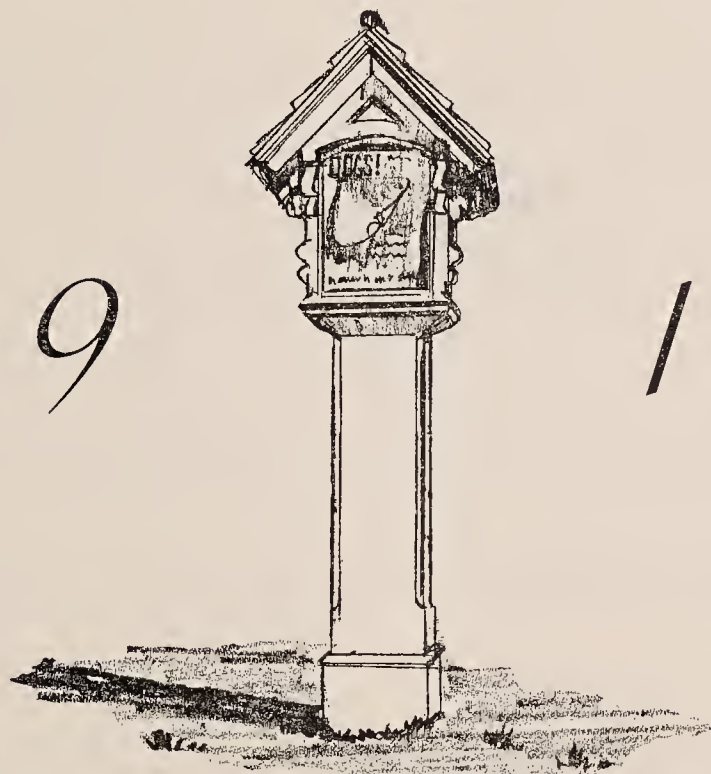




THIS IS

*Fairfield*

1639



1940

Pages from Three Hundred One Years

of the Town's Brilliant History

by

ELIZABETH V. H. BANKS

*Elizabeth V. H. Banks*



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*First Edition*





**TOWN OF FAIRFIELD  
CONNECTICUT**

January 21, 1960

This book by Miss Elizabeth V. H. Banks, Recording the Fairfield of Yesterday, is one that should be a must to all peoples and especially the young folks. A record story of Early New England which is Early America written by one who by family background, education, and her sincere interest in this community makes her pre-eminently qualified to undertake such a task.

As Fairfield's First Selectman, I am honored to endorse it and privileged to recommend it.

John J. Sullivan  
First Selectman





# Dedication

*To Susan*

*and to all of the many boys and girls whom I  
have known, do know, and will know in the  
future, to help them be reminded of their envi-  
able heritage here in Fairfield, this book is  
lovingly dedicated.*



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## FOREWORD

Jean Jaurès, a French philosopher and orator once said—"take from the altars of the past the fire—not the ashes."

The vital beliefs and good practices of our community rest on the support of historic knowledge. There is no basis for our society save that given by experience. There is no personal growth that is not built upon reflection on events of yesterday. We shall always be indebted to the past. Because the present moment changes as we live it, the past is all we know. By knowing what our forefathers did, we are inspired not only to respect their achievements but to strive to equal their resourcefulness and courage.

Our Town from the beginning has exhibited a zealous and sagacious spirit of liberty tempered with a strong reverence for law and a healthful subordination to the powers that be; so that one rarely finds a more quiet, secure, orderly and law abiding people, than remain here even to this day.

Fairfield has carried its full quota of the burdens of acquiring and defending our civil liberties and immunities—and considering its extent, it has been distinguished as the abode of illustrious men, whose soundness of judgment and

patriotism have served the interests of the state and nation, as they have in turn adorned and illumined our halls of legislation and temples of justice.

All of this has made Fairfield what it is today.

We have inherited knowledge, skills, arts, ideas and ideals, of enduring things that we should not willingly give up or take for granted. This is both a challenge and an opportunity for each of us.

We are but temporary tenants of this Town of ours. Let each of us care for that which has been preserved for us and pass it on in as good or better condition than we received it. This is a real trust that has been loaned to us. May we guard it and enrich it so that those who follow us may have even more to be proud of than we.

This book is a very simple presentation of Fairfield's past. May boys and girls and people generally read it and be reminded of what has been done for those who now live here.

These pages contain the fire and not the ashes.

September 1, 1960



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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This is Fairfield—Fairfield, Connecticut—a shore town. A town with hills and valleys. A town with rivers and brooks. A town where people have stood together. A town whose record shows strength. As one reads of the past, again and again you feel that there had to be order and planning and working together and our forebears saw to it that it was ever thus. The cost may have been great, but there has always been order in Fairfield.

The Town Meeting Minutes have been my primary guide in developing this story of 301 years, but many, many other sources have been put at my disposal by as many people. This is not a complete history. No history is ever complete, but here are pages from Fairfield's past—really a collection of many of the yesterdays of our Town.

It is difficult to single out all of those who have helped to make this book possible, for so many people have assisted me with it that I like to think of it as a genuine community effort. Many have shared their memories with me while others have let me use their treasured family possessions. It has been a very joyous experience for Fairfield means a great deal to many people and the strong will for organization and cooperation of our forebears is still most evident. To each of these people I shall always be grateful. The list is long. Throughout this writing I have endeavored to stress the human side—the real people—and their lives and I have been able to do this only because of the kindness and willingness of all of these wonderful folks. My personal thanks go to each one. Mrs. John Forsyth, Curator of the Fairfield Historical Society; Mrs. Richard H. MacDonald; Mr. and Mrs. Homer Sturges; Mrs. Margaret Farquhar; Mrs. Grace Donaldson and the entire Staff of the Pequot Library; Mrs. Lottie Burr; Seabury Lyon; Clyde S. Buckingham; Mrs. Ada Jennings; my aunt Miss M. Elva Banks; Fairfield County Agent LeRoy Chapman; Neeley Turner, Entomologist at the Connecticut Agriculture Experimental Station; Mrs. Margaret Buedinger; Mrs. Robert Bryan of the Fairfield Library; Mrs. George W. Polk; Mrs. Harold Bullard; Mrs.

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## CHAPTER 1

### BEFORE 1639 AND THE INDIANS OF FAIRFIELD.

**H**AD Adrien Block, a Dutch navigator, stopped in at the spot which was later to become Fairfield as he sailed along the shores of Connecticut in his newly made small boat, the Onrust (Restless), in the spring of 1614 searching for favorable trading sites, he would have seen a continuous forest overspreading the entire landscape embellishing both the hills and the valleys with its majestic verdure—an unmapped wilderness. Those grand old forest lands were filled with animals—some were suitable for food, others were valuable because of their fur and still others were beasts of prey. Thickets were unknown through those endless woods for the inhabitants kindled fires each year to sweep away any choking vines or bushes. Winding paths led through the wooded areas and man and beast travelled on them single file. Bears, panthers, wolves, and wildcats were an ever present fear. Wild turkeys, herons, quail and partridge were abundant. Shell fish were scattered in seemingly exhaustless profusion along the shores of the sound and the rivers were filled with fish in multitudes. The soil too, was rich and good for corn. Those early inhabitants were Indians and several hundred resided within the bounds of Fairfield.

Much has been written about the Pequots who were Mohicans and who had come from both sides of the Hudson River, below Albany. Their warriors alone numbered more than seven hundred. Sassacus, their chief Sachem, had 26 sachems of smaller tribes under him and from whom he collected tribute. They believed that Sassacus was all one god and that no one could kill him. Their government was absolute; they never forgot an injury and they would hold a grudge for years. The Pequots were not only the most numerous and most warlike, but they were also the fiercest and the bravest of all of the tribes in Connecticut. They were a continuous menace to all of the settlements. They were very fond of war and believed it to be the most glorious of any human occupation. They fought their

way east from the Hudson, overcoming the river tribes as they moved along and claimed the land by conquest. Their name, Pequot or Pequatoog, translated means “destroyers of men”.

In 1631 Wahginacut, the Chief of the Podunks, hoping to diminish the problem of continuous subjugation, went to the leaders of the Massachusetts and Plymouth Colonies to ask them to come to live in the Connecticut Valley. He told of the abundance and beauty of the land and promised that if the English would come, the Indians would supply them with corn and give them eighty skins of beaver each year. We all know that they came in 1635 to establish our State.

The English, Roger Ludlowe and seven other men who had been commissioned to govern the new colony, together with the additional group members, had barely been in Connecticut a year when trouble between them and the war loving Pequots seemed inevitable. Several dreadful acts had been perpetrated by the Pequots. The friendliness of the new families towards the river tribes aroused the jealousy and hatred of the Pequots toward the English.

Roger Ludlowe, who had been acting as governor, summoned a group of the colonists to a session of the General Court at Hartford on May 1, 1637 and after considerable deliberation on the first and only important business, a war of extermination was planned.

It is ordered that there shall be an offensive war against the Pequots, and that there shall be 90 men levied out of the three Plantations, Hartford, Wethersfield and Windsor, (viz.) out of Hartford 42, Windsor 30, Wethersfield 18: under the command of Capt. John Mason and in case of death or sickness, under the command of Robt. Seely Leift.: and the eldest sargeant or military officer surviving, if both these miscarry.<sup>1</sup>

Hartford was ordered to send fourteen men in armor and Windsor six. It was required that a hogshead of good beer should be provided for

<sup>1</sup> Col. Rec. of Conn. I. 9.



the Captain and gentlemen and the sick men,—in case there were only three or four gallons of strong water and two gallons of sack (strong, light colored wine). Windsor also was to provide sixty bushels of corn—Wethersfield, thirty-six bushels and Hartford eighty-four bushels. If it could be done, one half of the total amount of the corn was to be baked into biscuits and the rest was to be supplied as ground meal. Wethersfield was allowed ten bushels on account; Hartford was also expected to provide three firkins (1 firkin =  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a barrel) of suet, two firkins of butter, four bushels of oatmeal, two bushels of peas, five hundred fish and two bushels of salt. Wethersfield was assigned one bushel of Indian beans and Windsor fifty pieces of pork, four cheeses and thirty pounds of rice. Every soldier was ordered to carry one pound of powder, four pounds of shot, and twenty bullets. One barrel of powder and a light gun were to be taken from the River's mouth. Mr. Pyncheon's shallop was employed to assist with the transportation.

The men who sat in this historic first "General Court" were as magistrates—Roger Ludlowe, Mr. Wells, Mr. Swaine, Mr. Steele, Mr. Phelps and Andrew Warde of Wethersfield and as committees or representatives—(three from each town) Mr. Whiting, Mr. Webster, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hull, Mr. Chaplin, Mr. Talcott, Mr. Hosford, Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Sherman.

The decision of the General Court meant a great deal to Uncas, Chief of the Mohicans, who had originally been a Pequot, but because of his personal strength and ambition had rebelled against Sassacus, the Chief of the Pequots, and in due time had organized the Mohicans and made himself Chief. He wanted to become the supreme leader of all of the Indians in Southern New England and he thought this might become a reality with the aid of the English. He believed them to be courageous like himself thus he offered Captain Mason his services together with eighty of his men. Uncas knew the land and the whereabouts of the Pequots. The English did not, so his offer was accepted.

Now with the additional assistance, the little group set out from Hartford "in one pink, one pinnace, and one shallop" about May fifteenth, 1637.

The first encounter and the true defeat took place at Pequot Harbor, now New London, where the Indians' fort was burned. The dangers for the English were ever present for they were still

in Pequot territory and Sassacus and his three hundred remaining warriors were more furious than before. Some, with their families, had already started westward across the State, but travel was slow as they had to gather their food as they moved and too, the little children were not able to go along very fast. Captain Mason and his group, aided by one hundred and twenty new members from the Massachusetts Colony, continued to pursue them. Roger Ludlowe had recently been ordered by the General Court in Hartford to accompany Captain Mason.

Wequash, a Pequot Sachem who had revolted from Sassacus, was the principal and faithful guide of the English. He gave information respecting the distance that the forts of the Indians were from each other and the distance they were from that of the chief sachem. He later became the first Christian convert in Connecticut.

The march continued over land through Cupheag, Pequonnock and Uncoway until they came to a swamp (Southport) where the Indians were hiding. The swamp surrounded a hill thirty feet high. The Indians had disappeared into the thick growth of the swampy ground.

"How shall we proceed", asked one of the officers. Many opinions were expressed and this caused confusion and disagreement. Some advised building a wall about the swamp, which was equally opposed, while others advised forcing the swamp, as it was then but three o'clock. Still others urged that they surround the swamp as closely as possible, fill in the spaces between the men with bushes through which no one could pass, and thus secure the Indians until morning when further action might be taken.

While waiting for agreement on a plan of action, Captain Mason ordered that the narrow neck in the swamp should be cut across, to make it easier to surround the hidden Pequots.

For the English to force their way into the swamp and fight among the trees would mean the destruction of many Indian women and children, and to avoid this outcome, Thomas Stanton offered his services to go into the swamps and treat with the Pequots.

It was a brave and daring suggestion, and was opposed as too dangerous a mission for him to undertake. He was a man well acquainted with the Indian language and customs, without fear, and in spite of opposition he disappeared through the thick growth of trees and bushes.

For his companions, it was an anxious hour of waiting, but at last he came back, just as darkness fell, leading two hundred old men, women and children who delivered themselves to the mercy of the English.

All night the English surrounded the swamp as best they could (about twelve feet apart). Half an hour before the break of day with a great noise according to their custom at such times, the Indians



tried to break through the section where Captain Patrick was stationed. They were beaten back, but again and still again they renewed their efforts while the Captain held his ground.

The noise was heard throughout the region. It was repeated and grew louder. Mason in alarm raised the seige on his side of the swamp and rushed towards the point of attack. While on his way, at a turn in the swamp, he saw the Indians forcing themselves toward him and sent them back by rounds of shot.

He halted to wait for a second effort, when the Indians turned about, violently pressed upon Captain Patrick, broke through his line, and some sixty or seventy succeeded in making their escape.

The swamp was searched, but none were found alive and but few slain. The captives taken amounted to one hundred eighty, who were divided among their conquerors as servants. "Thus did the Lord scatter his enemies with a strong arm."

The fleeing Pequots became a prey to all Indians. Those who captured any were glad to do so, sending the heads to Hartford or to Windsor where they were received almost daily.

In due time there came from the Mohawks the head of Sassacus himself, as a token of friendship and as a proof that no enemy of the English could find refuge among them.

The surviving Pequots themselves at last grew weary of being hunted, and sent their chiefs to the English offering to become subjects to the white men if their lives might be spared. Their plea was granted.<sup>1</sup>

There were still about two hundred Pequots alive. Eighty of these were given to Uncas of the Mohicans; eighty were given to Miantonamo of the Narragansetts; and twenty to Ninigret the Niantic.

When the victorious soldiers returned to their homes, a day of Thanksgiving was proclaimed in the colonies of Plymouth, Connecticut and Massachusetts.

Those of us who live in Fairfield are well aware of the monument in Southport just off and to the south of the Boston Post Road which marks the spot where the battle took place. The monument reads:

*"The Great Swamp Fight  
Here Ended  
The Pequot War  
July 13, 1637"*

Even within the past hundred and fifty years stone tomahawks, arrow heads and other relics of the Pequots have been found in this Indian retreat and the story goes further to say that even grownups of that period were afraid to go near the swamp after dark, such was their fear of

the red man.

In searching for materials for this work one finds the Lord's Prayer in the Pequot tongue. It is included here along with its translation for as barbarous as they were proclaimed, the translation of the prayer is beautiful. A few Pequot words are also included here.

Lord's Prayer, in the Pequot Tongue.

"Co shunōngone the suck cuck ābot. Na naw ūi e coom shaw ims nuskspe coūe so wūnk. Kuck sudamong peamook. Ecook Aiootoomomon ukkee tawti ee ōok ungow. A geescuck mēē se nam eyew kee suck askesuck myspu es honegan. A quon to mi nun namat to ōmp pa wōn ganuksh nō. Awe ah goon to mi nad macha. Chook quoe a guck, ah greead macon jussūon mattum pau oon ganuck puk kqueaw hus nawn woochet. Matchetook kee kucks sudamong cumme ekē go wonk, ah kōont seek coomsakō oh woonk. Mackēeme, mackēeme Eeats."

In English:

"Father ours in Heaven. Admired in highest manner be thy name. Like done thy will on earth as like in Heaven. Let us be forgiven evil doings of ours, as we would forgive wrong doers to us. Not guide us into snares, but help us to escape from evil. Thine thy powerful kingdom, thine the strength, thine the greatest glory. Always, Always me wish so".<sup>1</sup>

#### VOCABULARY — PEQUOT<sup>2</sup>

Ear	cuttuwaneage (what you hear by)
Eye	skeezucks (plural)
Nose	kuchijage
Mouth	cuttoneege
Teeth	neebut (singular)
House	wigwam
Shoes	muckasons
Sun	meun
Moon	weyhan
Fire	yewt
Water	nupp
Rain	sokghean
Snow	souckpoun
Tree	mattuck (plural)
Dog	nahteah
Bear	awaussens
One	nuguut
Two	neeze
Three	shweh

<sup>1</sup> Pg. 39, History of "The Indians of Connecticut" John W. DeForest.

<sup>2</sup> From pg. 491, History of "The Indians of Connecticut" John W. DeForest.

<sup>1</sup> "The Story of the War with the Pequots Re-Told" by Howard Bradstreet. Tercentenary Commission of the State of Connecticut, 1933.



Four	yauh
Five	nuppau
Six	nucquuddosh
Seven	nezzaugnsk
Eight	shwausk
Nine	pauzsacougeu
Ten	puigg

The late Cyrus Sherwood Bradley did a great deal of research on Indians generally and he tells us that when the English came to Connecticut there were two small tribes living in our area. They were the Sasqua Indians and the Pequonnock Indians. Sasqua means "marsh meadow—open green country, land or place". There were about one hundred Sasqua Indians and their land went from Mill River on the east to Muddy Brook (Greens Farms) on the west. Their village was in Southport, west of the swamp. There were about twenty wigwams in their village. Their cornfield was in Mill Plain.

John Wampus who married Ann, daughter of Romanock, Sachem of Aspetuck, claimed Sasqua. The Indians sold Sasqua in 1661 for "thirteen coats, 2 yards a piece and ye rest in wampum". The settlers in turn then gave the Indians three reservations:

1. Rocky Neck—now Rose Hill in Southport.
2. Clapboard Hill—in Greens Farms
3. Actual spot is unknown.

The Southport reservation or Rocky Neck was sold to the Town in 1703 for seven pounds current money and one coat. The Clapboard Hill reservation in Greens Farms was sold to the Town for eight pounds five shillings.

The arrow heads of these Indians were almost always made from a white quartz cobble, probably picked up on the nearest beach. The Indian basket sellers used to camp on the west side of Center Street just north of the Pequot swamp, perhaps not too far from the swampy area where the warriors made their escape during the Swamp Fight.

Aspetuck also belonged to the Sasqua Indians. Romanock, a great warrior who got many wives by killing the sachems and marrying their widows, took possession of both Sasqua and Aspetuck. Their village was in the Great or Middle-brooks swamp in Aspetuck. Their Chief lived on a rocky island in the middle of the swamp. The village amounted to about fifteen wigwams.

The Pequonnocks lived in the western part of old Stratford, now Bridgeport. Their land extended as far west as Mill River. They were

strong enough at one time to defeat the dreaded Pequots. Their name means 'cleared land'. Paquanock was the Sachem or Chief of the Pequonnock Indians. They lived on the west side of the river commonly called the Uncoway River. Their lands extended to the Housatonic River on the east. They were a numerous group—probably about four hundred of them. There were three villages of them: one near the pond in Grasmere, another in Black Rock near the Fairfield Avenue Railroad crossing (this one for the defense against the inner tribes), and the third one at the foot of Golden Hill. Uncoway was purchased from the Pequonnock Indians and they were called the Uncoway Indians in later years.

There are many other Indian names about Fairfield today and each has a bearing on the past. They too, are included here.

Crocreecrow—an inhabitant of Pequonnock. He was 15 when he was with the Pequots in the Swamp Fight.

Nepas—ye Indian—meaning "The little riser"—the action of going or coming, continuing to approach.

Nonopoge—aged 58 years, testified for the town in the Sasqua land case—means fresh water or fresh pond.

Papurah—first signer Stratford Confirmation, April 28, 1684—means a winter fish which comes up in the brooks and rivulets, some call them frost fish.

Pequonnock—a name common to all cleared land—from which the trees and bushes had been removed to fit it for cultivation.

Ponuncamo—Ponuncamus first signer March 20, 1660-61—name means he paddles or rows a boat—succeeded Shouamouten as chief of Sasqua.

Romanock—late sachem of Aspetuck and Sasquanaugh—being a great warrior and often fighting with strange Indians. Romanock came here as a captain not belonging to any of these seaside parts.

Sasapequan—means he spreads out.

Uncoa—Uncaway means a valley, a landing place, the shellfish, the old place, borders, looking forward. The Town meeting minutes spelled this Indian name for Fairfield-Uncoway. The colonial records used the spelling Uncoa or Uncowaye. Today we are all aware of another spelling, Unquowa. The accent in Uncoa and in Uncowaye came on the second syllable.



Winnepoge—He was a witness for the town in the Sasqua land case. At that time he was sixty years old and was the brother of Nonopoge. His name means pleasing water.

Saugatuck—means outlet of the tidal river.

Siacus—means he is hard, hard fighter, stout man. Siacus signed a deed in Fairfield. He moved to Gaylordsville in New Milford and was a kindly remembered old Indian.

Tahmore—means hearts together.

Taquoshe—means he is short, low of stature.

Algonquin—a member of a group of North American Indian tribes formerly along the Ottawa river and northern tributaries of the St. Lawrence.

Creconoof—means he goes among, mingles with them. There is a tradition that the chief, Creekino, lived and was buried on an island “about as large as a garden spot” in the brook which bears his name, southwest of the brick house, built by Samuel Wakeman on the north side of the second cross highway, at a place called Hollow or Pankhorn, in Deerfield, Greenfield.

Tunxis Hill—Tunksus Hill. This hill, sometimes called Holland Hill, in the eastern part of Fairfield. The name may have been transferred to it from Rooster River which half encircles it, though at a considerable distance—means the little bend.

Sachem—The chief of the Indian tribe or chief of a confederation of Indians.

A large rock, near Samp Mortar Rock which was seventy-two feet high, was sometimes called Owens Rock, from the circumstances of a man by the name of Owen, who had lost his way, walking off this seventy foot precipice in a dark night. His body was found the next morning. Dr. Timothy Dwight, who was the minister at the Greenfield Hill Congregational Church, preached his funeral sermon. This would have been about 1790.

Samp Mortar Rock has long since been a favorite picnic destination<sup>1</sup> for young and not so young alike. The “mortar” is a natural pot hole on the verge of the cliff. This was of course, once in the stream bed. There are sculptured foot prints on either side of the “mortar”. Another pot hole has been found further back from the ledge of the cliff. South of the large rock there

is a rich valley and at one time in this valley stood a large Indian village. At the very foot of the precipice there apparently was a burying ground. It is possible that this mortar was the only common mill of the settlement.

The “Legend of Samp Mortar Rock”, written a good many years prior to 1869, has not been repeated of late so it is being added at this particular point—especially since Tahmore’s suitor Sassacus was the Sachem of the dreaded Pequots.

## “THE LAST OF THE PEQUOTS”

### *“A Legend of Samp Mortar Rock”*

In the southwestern part of Connecticut, about two miles to the north of where the pleasant village of Fairfield now stands, is a granite rock, which is the termination of a ridge of the same substance, and which I shall designate by the title it has owned for a century past. It is called “Samp Mortar Rock,” from the circumstances of its having on its top “an excavation in the form of a mortar, and of sufficient dimensions to contain upward of half a bushel of corn or other grain. The tradition is, that it was used by the native Indians for the purpose of pounding their corn”. This rock, on the south, forms a precipice thirty feet high, and seems like a barrier of nature’s own handiwork, placed there to protect the lovely valley at its foot from the chill northern blast. At the time when the scenes which we are about to relate were transacted, this valley was the site of a small Indian village and burying ground, some faint traces of which are to this day visible. It is indeed a lovely spot; and he who now looks upon it with a knowledge of what it has been, cannot but admire the choice of those rude children of the forest in selecting that spot for their dwelling place; even while he blushes to think of the rapacity and cruelty of his own civilized race, which, with iron hand, and an unrelenting heart, wrested from its rightful proprietors the very soil on which he stands.

A small tribe of Mohicans inhabited this place, numbering perhaps fifty warriors. The chief was Onee-to, brave and generous. He had but one child, a daughter, beautiful, full of activity and fairy-like lightness. Her flowing locks were glossy as the raven’s wing, and when wreathed with wild flowers gathered from the rock which overhung her father’s wigwam, she might have gone forth among her sex and not found her superior in beauty, either in the drawing rooms of princes, or even in the far-famed courts of Eastern lands. Her beauty was that of nature, and therefore perfect, and all the decorations to which art resorts to increase this much desired and highly esteemed quality, would have been employed on her in vain. Who would enhance the beauty of the summer cloud, when the setting sun pours upon it a flood of golden and purple light? Who would heighten the beauty of the calm lake, embossed in the depths of the forest, when the clear, full moon makes its surface silver? Who would improve Niagara’s foaming waters? Or Vesuvius, with its top in mid air, spouting forth rolling clouds of

<sup>1</sup> June 12, 1884—Fairfield Advertiser:

“The Bridgeport Pleasure Club will take their next ride to that romantic spot—Samp Mortar—next week. The Club has 8 or 10 members.”



smoke and rivers of liquid fire? Nature in her simplicity is far more beautiful than art: so the beauty of Tahmore, from the very circumstance that all effort to improve was absent, shone with the greater splendor.

She was the object of admiration of all the young men of her tribe; and even those braves, who, full of ambition and warlike schemes, were indifferent to the other maidens, could not withstand her charms. Onee-to was proud of his daughter; and when many a bold warrior solicited of him her hand, he always referred the matter to herself, with full liberty to act at her own pleasure in accepting or rejecting the petition. Hitherto her heart had been, or appeared to have been untouched; and much wonder had she caused among the maidens by rejecting so many suitors. There was doubtless a cause for all of this; and when it is disclosed, if her own people wondered, my readers will not, at the apparent insensibility of Tahmore's heart.

About two miles south of the village of Uncoway, which we have described above, in the bosom of the forest, a single pioneer had made a clearing and constructed a dwelling. This man's name was Harwood. He had been a gentleman of some note in England, but having met with disappointments, and been deceived by professed friends, he became sick of the world, and sought to escape its perplexities and its cares, in the wilds of America. As soon, therefore, as he had landed on the shores of the Western continent, he proceeded in search of a spot favorable to agriculture and which would not be likely to be soon encroached upon by other settlers. Pleased with the strong fertile soil of the plains adjacent to Long Island Sound, he purchased of the natives the tract, in the center of which stood his house. Always attending to his own business—strictly honorable and upright in his dealings with the Indians—he had never incurred any of the molestations, which were sure to trouble those, who sought by fraud to deprive the Aborigines of the lands and rights they had inherited from their ancestors. So far from that indeed, he had interchanged many kind offices with them, always receiving ample recompense for any little favor he might have conferred.

It is a well known trait of the character of the North American Indian, that he never forgets a kindness or forgives an injury: certain it is, that Mr. Harwood never had reason to repent of his conduct toward them as kindness thrown away.

His family consisted of his wife and several sons, of whom the eldest, George, was now twenty years of age. He had been well educated, was possessed of an amiable disposition, and a mind rather above the ordinary level. In person he was tall, well formed, of great muscular strength, and remarkably active. Hunting was his pastime; and like Jugarth, "he was the first, or among the first, to strike" the wolf or bear, or whatever beast of the forest chanced to cross his path.

One day, soon after their settlement here, he went out as usual with his rifle in his hand, attended by his dog, a powerful mastiff brought with him from the old world. His search for game had been fruit-

less, till suddenly a piercing shriek, as of some one in distress, rang upon his ear. He hastened in the direction whence the sound proceeded and soon reached the spot. Here he beheld a scene which made his pulse throb more quickly, and which at once aroused all his energies. It was a lovely spot, a small green glade surrounded on three sides by tall craggy rocks, through the crevices of which sprang huge oaks and chestnuts, and all varieties of forest. From one of the rocks, gushed a small stream of pure water flowing through the opposite opening of the glade, and gurgling music as it ran. But all this was, for the present, unseen by our huntsman—his attention was absorbed by objects of deeper interest. On the ground lay a huge panther, or catamount, with its heart transfixed with an arrow; and writhing in the agonies of death. On a tree a few feet distant was another, and still large, preparing to spring upon its prey. A short distance from the foot of the tree stood a young Indian girl, with her arms folded upon her breast which heaved with the excitement. She stood as if knowing escape to be impossible; and as if determined to meet her fate in a becoming manner, even though there was no eye to witness it.

But there was one eye that saw it; the eye of one who well knew how to appreciate the moral sublimity of the scene. It was indeed, the height of that sublimity to see that girl—hardly yet old enough to be called woman—stand thus—despising fear, with eyes fixed upon that fierce beast with calmness that would not disgrace the boldest warrior of her tribe. She looked like Ajax, defying the lightnings of heaven. Her attitude was one of perfect grace; and as George Harwood gazed for the first time upon her intellectual beauty—as he admired the firmness and resolution of soul, which could uphold her at such a moment, he felt that he had no longer a heart that he could call his own. But her deliverance from danger was first to be thought of—and with the quickness of thought his rifle was at his shoulder—his eye glanced along the barrel, and the ball sped on its errand. But it was a moment too late, for at that instant the animal sprang, and the shot served only to exasperate the before sufficiently ferocious beast. As he struck the ground he was met by the gallant dog, and a terrific contest immediately ensued. The combatants were nearly equal in size, and apparently in strength. The forest rang with their cries. The panther repeatedly bounded into the air, and attempted to alight upon the back of his adversary, and was as often repulsed. Their eyes looked like balls of fire, and their jaws were soon red with each other's blood. It seemed doubtful on which side the victory would turn, and perhaps both would have died upon the spot had no person been there to decide the contest. George had reloaded his rifle as soon as possible, and at a moment when both were locked together on the ground, he boldly advanced, and placing the muzzle of his piece close to the panther's head, put an end to the bloody scene. As soon as the panther was dead, the girl fell at Harwood's feet and thanked him for her rescue. She spoke in English, and he was much surprised at this. He thought too, that he had never before heard



any voice so strangely musical. Her tones, deepened by the excitement of the scene she had just witnessed, and by the real gratitude she felt toward her deliverer, fell upon his ear as the most perfect harmony; and if anything had been wanting to complete the conquest she had unconsciously made over his spirit, it was supplied by the music of that voice—and by the ease and gracefulness, yet dignity and sincerity of the manner in which she thanked him for her life.

When she had done this she turned to depart, but George caught her by her hand, saying, "Will not the beautiful maiden tell me her name that I may see her again?"

"My name is Tahmore," said she, "and I am the daughter of Onee-to."

"Nay," then answered George,—“may I not even accompany her to the tent of her father. I am the friend of her people, and they will be glad to see the young eagle, as they call me, and welcome me to their wigwams.”

Tahmore's eyes kindled as he spoke, and he realized that she was by no means displeased with his proposition. On the way to the village, he could not sufficiently admire the modesty and artlessness, of her manner. She told him how that Uncas, who was a relative of her father, and well acquainted with the English, had often visited them, and had taught her the language of the white men. He had told her that the English used things which they called books, which told them many strange things. And then she regretted that, although the daughter of a chief, she was nothing but a poor Indian girl, and could never hope to be like the women of his race, whom she heard were all beautiful. And then she told him that she often set out alone—for she loved to gaze upon the wild woods, and the hanging crags, and the dashing torrent—and that she loved and worshipped the great spirit who made all these beautiful things. But she had not heard that the white people worshipped another spirit—and she asked George to tell her something about that being; and then she described her meeting with the panther, she had been out with her bow and arrows to shoot birds, to obtain feathers with which to deck her hair—and on returning home she was surprised by the fierce beast. To fix her last arrow on her string was but the work of a moment—the next, and the winged shaft whizzed through the air and the monster fell with his death wound. From him had come the shriek, so nearly human, which had called George to her rescue. She then felt that she must die, but felt conscious that she should go to places still more lovely than any that were here—where there were no wild beasts—and where everything would be good and happy.

As George listened to her simple story, he thought how noble a task it would be to raise such a pure and lofty mind from ignorance, and to teach and to assist it to fathom the deep things of nature and of God; and he felt convinced as he conversed with her on the pure enjoyment to be derived from the attainment of that knowledge of which she had spoken, that she might easily become well qualified

to adorn any station in life to which it might be in his power to raise her.

They had now reached the village, and as he predicted, every one was ready to welcome him, and to urge upon him the hospitalities of their rude dwellings. But when, declining them all, but in such a manner as not to give offense, he proceeded directly to the tent of Onee-to, and Tahmore, related to her father what had taken place in her own language and impressive manner; when Onee-to, with sincere joy and gratitude depicted on his countenance, grasped his hand, and thanked him for his kindness in rescuing his only and beloved daughter from a cruel death, he felt that he should be proud to own such a man for his father, and that his happiness depended upon a single point: whether he might gain the pure being before him for his bride. He had then and there learned, what many in our day seem not to be aware of—that under a rude and unprepossessing exterior, may exist the finest qualities that ever dwelt in the human heart.

Days rolled on, and as they rolled, each succeeding one found George Harwood in company with the Indian girl—either rambling through the glades of the green forest, or scaling the craggy heights, or angling in the mountain stream, or yet under the shade of some majestic oak, and there he read to her from some favorite book. And ever and anon her rich clear voice would break out into some of those wild strains which characterize the songs of her race; and as the echos of that voice came back from the depths of the forest, and from the hill side, it seemed as if some instrument was there, touched by a fairy hand which sent forth those strains of witching melody. And ere many weeks had passed she too had learned to read—to commune with the spirits of those who had gone before. She had learned to admire the rich strains of poetry and song, she had begun to climb the hill of science and as she mounted step by step towards its summit, her character acquired new energy, faculties which before had remained dormant were roused into action, and her whole soul was gradually elevated from that state of ignorance in which the man is but a step above the brute, to a well deserved rank among the choice spirits of the earth. And when the Book of Books was placed in her hand, and the light of revelation poured in upon her soul and her mind led to aspire after pleasures higher and brighter than this world can afford, it was like placing your heart in the heavens, which freed the earth from the darkness and horror of chaos and imparted to its surface that vivifying principle that causes it to bring forth those beautiful things which our eyes behold, clothed in a garb of green, emblematic of the joys ever fresh and ever new, reserved for "the spirits of the just made perfect", in the bright sunshine above.

Two years passed in this manner, and George Harwood had found no reason to repent of his determination to make Tahmore his wife. From his father he experienced no opposition to his wishes. Mr. Harwood was one who had too often witnessed the dreadful effects of compelling the young to wed where their affections were not centered; and he had often deplored the infatuation of parents who would



exercise their authority in bringing about such a result. And perhaps treated as he had been by the world, he felt more real respect and esteem for those unsophisticated savages, than for the great mass of the civilized world.

George was now looking anxiously forward to the consummation of his hopes and happiness. A few weeks more and he might call the object of his love his own. But what all this time was the state of Tahmore's heart? Of course, she esteemed him who had saved her life, of course she respected him who had led her in the paths of knowledge; and of course, then, I might say, she loved the man for his own sake; for respect and esteem are but the road of love, and it is a difficult task for a tender maiden to shield her heart from all the arrows of the "Rosy God", while constantly in the presence of a youth whom she respects. Such was the case with Tahmore, and her warm heart lavished on the object of her affections a rich tide of gushing love.

Her whole soul, her very being was wrapped up in him; and she too was anticipating the day when she might prove to him that his kindness to her would not go without its reward.

Here I must leave them, while I introduce new characters and scenes.

About three miles in a southwesterly direction from Samp Mortar and the village of Uncoway which were described at the commencement of our story, was the great swamp of Sasco. This marsh is several miles in extent, and is rendered nearly impenetrable by the thick growth of small trees and underwood with which it is covered. It stands there now as it stood then, a gloomy, dismal swamp.<sup>1</sup> Here the proud and warlike, and once powerful chief of the Pequots, Sassacus, with his little band, took refuge. Here they were compelled to secrete themselves, in order to escape the general destruction of their nation; and here they might have remained without fear of discovery, had it not been for the untamed passion of their haughty prince.

It chanced one day that Sassacus himself had cautiously left the swamp toward evening, for the purpose of gaining a supply of food; and had somehow found his way to the very spot where George Harwood had rescued Tahmore from death.

The girl was there now, seated upon a mossy stone, listening to the music of the wind as it played through the branches, or musing, perhaps, on the very circumstance which had made that a sacred one to her. There George Harwood had saved her life. There her soul had burst the bands of ignorance, and gradually freed itself from the deep darkness in which it had been enshrouded. There she had been first made acquainted with that Glorious Being, whose works she had often admired. Ah! she was in greater danger as she sat there now, though all unconscious of it, than when she stood awaiting the spring of the fierce beast, who was to tear her limb from limb! Now, as then, human eyes were gazing—now, as then, her beauty excited the energies of a strong nature—but unlike him who had there

seen her—and had proved her best friend—he who now stood spellbound to the spot, was to be her bitter enemy—and, for a short time at least, to dash from her hand the cup of joy—and leave but the bitterness of disappointment. It was Sassacus the Pequot Prince. In a moment, the fact that he had been defeated in battle, driven from his country; that he was now an exile, compelled to hide himself in the recesses of a dismal swamp—all were forgotten. He thought of nothing; saw nothing but the beauty of the fairy creature before him. His prudence; his caution; the craftiness of his nature; seemed to desert him; so powerful was the impression which the sight of the loveliest flower of the Mohican nation wrought upon his stern and energetic soul. Whilst he stood; lost in admiration; he uttered an involuntary exclamation of surprise. Tahmore started at the voice, and would have fled, but he sprang forward and caught her by the hand. He told her that the pale faces had burned his wigwam; and that his wife and children had all perished in the flames. And then he besought her to become his bride. And he who had scorned a treaty with the whites; who had disdained to stoop to the proudest chiefs around him; was now a humble suitor at the feet of a simple girl. He sued in vain. Her heart was faithful to its trusts; and with a firm voice she replied.

"Tahmore must not listen to the voice of the great chief; she must not love him; she will be his friend; but she can never live with him in his tent."

"Sassacus is a king," answered the chief; "and the young fawn knows not what she does when she refuses to become his bride."

"Nay, nay," said the girl, with kindling eye, "it must not be; for Tahmore loves another."

"Hah! And who will dare to love the maiden that Sassacus has set his eye upon? Who shall stand before the great chief when he is angry?" And the fierce savage clutched his knife, and glared around him, as if looking for some object on which to vent his rage. At that moment young Harwood—accompanied by Onee-to and his dog, came in sight, and the terrified girl sprang into her lover's arms. Sassacus cast upon them one look of vengeance, and darted through the forest muttering revenge.

The next day Tahmore sat upon the Mortar Rock, pounding corn for the evening meal. Her merry voice rang upon the clear air—her soul was glad—her heart beat high with hope. The day had been fixed which was to bind her fate with that of the only one she had ever loved, and the anticipation of that happiness, the occurrence of the preceding day, and the threats of Sassacus were nearly forgotten. At that very moment, while no care oppressed her mind, those were near who would scruple not to ruin forever her happiness, and to blast her affections ere yet they had fully blossomed.

Through the small bushes that covered the entire ridge except that part of the rock where Tahmore sat, crept the athletic form of a tawny savage; while two others stood guarding the only access to the summit of the rock. Silent was his progress. He seemed intent on reaching, unperceived, the spot where the unsuspecting girl still sat engaged in her employment. But at the moment, when he had

<sup>1</sup> This story was written some years ago. Since then, this "Swamp" has been in great part cleared up.



reached the edge of the brushwood—a large eagle came sailing majestically through the air, and as Tahmore turned her head to watch its flight, the form of Sassacus caught her eye—and at once revealed her danger. Resistance was in vain—to escape seemed impossible; and there appeared but one alternative—to fall into the power of her enemy; or die. It was almost needless to tell which she preferred. With one bound she was at the edge of the precipice—the next moment she stood at its foot unharmed! The tall, thick grass at the base of the rock had preserved her from injury; and once more the frantic chief was cheated of his prey.

A week after the above occurrence, Tahmore was sitting in the door of her father's tent. Nearly all the warriors of her tribe were absent on a great hunting expedition, and were not expected to return for several days. Her eyes were strained anxiously toward the south; her betrothed had promised to visit her that day; it now lacked but one hour of sunset, and she had not yet seen him. She had placed herself there that she might catch the first glimpse of him emerging from the forest. She felt sad; some presentiment of evil shed its influence over her; and she sat in silence. The hour had passed, and yet he came not; the shades of evening began to thicken around, and still no tidings. But in his stead came one with a triumphant smile upon his haughty lips and in an exulting tone, once more demanded Tahmore as his bride; and when she returned the same answer as before; the certainty of revenge—the knowledge that he had it now in his power to bend that unyielding spirit, made him look like a wolf, while he stands parleying with the lamb; glutting his greedy eyes upon the tempting sight, as certain of feasting on his flesh, as if he had already had him in his ravenous jaws. The tall form of the chief drew up—and a cold malignant smile played upon his features as he said,

“The pale face whom Tahmore loves is my prisoner! If ere tomorrow's sunset she yields not to my wishes, I will tear out his heart and roast it for my food! In the great swamp of the Sasco he is guarded by my trusty warriors. Let the maiden come here, and by consenting to be my bride, free the white man from my grasp—if not I have told her what I will do. Sassacus will sue no more!” And with that he disappeared as suddenly as he had made his entrance.

About fifteen miles to the east of Uncoway, lay the army of the English, then commanded by Captain Stoughten, of Massachusetts. About midnight, a light was seen approaching the encampment; and in reply to the challenge of the sentinel, a soft voice inquired for the commander; urging important intelligence as a reason for seeing him at that untimely hour. She was admitted to his tent, and at once proceeded to inform him that the remnant of the tribe of Pequots was concealed in the Sasco Swamp; that they held a white man their prisoner; and if he was not released during the following day, that would be his last.

The next sunrise saw that army surrounding the marsh, which from that day has been called **THE SWAMP OF THE PEQUOTS**. All was silent as the

grave; and many a soldier began to wonder at the credulity of their commander in trusting to the tale of an unknown Indian girl. Not a Pequot was to be seen; but presently from a little eminence in the center of the swamp, a small, thin column of blue smoke curled upwards to the clouds. Half an hour—and, mingling with the roar of musketry, the clash of swords, and knives, and tomahawks, were heard the shouts of men, and the yells of savages, and the groans of the wounded and the dying. In the center of the conflict, freed and armed by a soldier, was George Harwood, fighting hand to hand with the Pequot King.

Few of the tribe survived that bloody day. Sassacus himself, with twenty of his most hardy men, escaped and fled to the country of the Mohawks, and perished by their treacherous hands. Such was the fate, and such the melancholy end of the last of the Pequots.

A few months since, as I was riding through a beautiful village in Connecticut, my eye rested upon a large and commodious mansion in its center. A group of children were sporting in the yard, and the striking resemblance which some of them bore to a countenance I well remembered, caused me to stop and inquire their name. It was Harwood. I immediately dismounted, and was soon welcomed by my old friend George Harwood. We had formerly been very intimate—but he had never told me the history of his family. And as he related to me the incidents of the preceding narrative during the evening, I was no longer at a loss to account for the dark and peculiar shade of his complexion—his fiery eye—and the strong energy of his nature. I saw before me the descendants of the identical George Harwood of my story, and Tahmore the Indian girl; and easily could my imagination picture her beauty as I looked upon the rosy daughters of my friend. The next morning we visited the rock, only a few miles distant, which forms an important feature in our tale. Her people had commemorated the noble deed of the heroic girl, who preserved her honor and her happiness, and the happiness of her betrothed, by springing from its summit. The rude hieroglyphics which described the event are still visible, and most probably will be till the last son of Adam shall have mouldered back to dust.

Taken from—The Southport Chronicle. February 15, 1869.

Soldiers in the Pequot War of 1637 and 1638 who settled in Fairfield:

Roger Ludlowe	Thomas Lyon
Dr. Thomas Pell	Samuel Gregory
James Eggleston	Thomas Basset
Nehemiah Olmstead	John Wood
William Hayden	

Richard Osborn (received “eighty acres of land for his good service”)

There are many interesting facts about the Indians of our area which have been handed down by word of mouth and I feel that they too could be enjoyed right here.



The Indians knew it was time to plant corn when the oak leaf was the size of a mouse's ear.

The Indians of this area depended a good bit on shell fish for food as hunting was more uncertain.

In the spring they counted on the runs of shad and lamprey eels.

The Indians generally hunted alone—each seeking food for his own family. Each tribe knew their territorial bounds and those limits were carefully observed by all when hunting.

Succotash, which we enjoy today—a mixture of corn and lima beans which the Indians boiled in their earthen pots and often seasoned with fish (sometimes dried, sometimes fresh) is the most famous Indian dish which has been handed down to us.

The Indians would run up to one hundred miles a day to keep fit.

They had coarse hair and a good set of white teeth.

There were between fifteen and twenty thousand Indians in all Connecticut and of these, perhaps three or four thousand were warriors.

When the tribe travelled, the women carried the children and provisions.

Canoes were the main means of transportation.

The men's clothing for winter was made of skins and in the summer they wore only a loin cloth. The women wore sort of a wrap around type skirt of cloth and this was generally decorated with paint.

Indian pudding, a traditional Thanksgiving dinner dessert for many of us, has come down from the early peoples of Fairfield. This is a baked mixture of corn meal, molasses, eggs and milk.

The ministers reported from time to time of their work among the Indians in endeavoring to Christianize them. Badges were ordered to be worn at one point by the friendly Indians.

There are a few local stories about Indians which bear repeating.

Mrs. Lottie Burr told a very interesting story about the Indians up in Devils Den. Mrs. Burr lived with her family on Black Rock Turnpike just above where the Blue Bird Inn is now—the fourth house above. In back of their house was a heavily wooded area. In the early spring her father and grandfather went into the woods to make charcoal. At a particular spot in the woods they had a stone fireplace and a log cabin. It

was there that they brought the large chestnut logs to make into charcoal. They would stand them on end and then let the wood smolder. They had to watch the logs carefully to keep them from burning up. There was always a pile of dirt close by to throw on the smoldering logs in case they broke into flames.

It seems that one day when they went out to cut logs, Mrs. Burr's father noticed a chip out of several trees. It was really a small ax mark. Upon looking at the other trees around, he noticed another mark just like it, and then another, and another. He, together with her grandfather decided to follow them, for they soon realized it was a trail. They went into the woods a good three miles and there found under a rock ledge, a family of three Indians living in a tent with the ledge providing much shelter—the floor was made of piles of straw. The family consisted of a man, his wife and a son. The woman could write and speak English.

The Indian woman told the two men that she wished she had some books for the boy so that he could learn to read. When they returned to their own home and related the story of their trip into the woods, Mrs. Burr, who was then six years old (1878) took her only three linen ABC books and went with her Grandfather into the woods to give the books to the Indians. To thank Mrs. Burr for her kindness, the little boy stood on his head and turned somersaults for her entertainment.

Sometime later, one night after dark, there was a knock at the door at Mrs. Burr's home. When her mother went to the door, sixteen Indians stood there—men, women and children. The family of three whom they had found in the woods were among them. Mrs. Burr remembers that the Chief's head dress of feathers went around his head and all the way down to the ground. They wanted food and asked permission to spend the night in the barn. Mrs. Burr's mother had just taken six loaves of bread out of the oven and gave the Indians five of them. Her father had been clamming the day before and gave them a peck of clams and a kettle. The Indians cooked the clams and ate the bread and then went to the barn to sleep. The mother of the Indian boy who wanted the books earlier, spoke for the group and they promised not to smoke in the barn which, of course, was still full of hay. Mrs. Burr's father was worried about fire. Early the next morning, her father went to the barn to see if all was well. He found the hay-



strewn-lair empty. The Indians had rested and gone back to their woodland early—no one having seen or heard them when they went.

Mrs. Burr also remembers one Indian by the name of George coming to their house during the summers, looking for work at weeding the garden. The Indians also came to the door selling baskets. They made a special work basket for her one time and attached to it a little one for her thimble. They also made a bow and arrow for her when she was a little girl. The Indians made a square basket-like tray, upon which her Grandmother dried her yeast.

Mrs. Helen Pease Van Valkenburg said that an Indian woman and her son lived in a wigwam near the front lawn of her grandparents home on Congress Street as late as 1830 and she still has a little basket which the Indian made for her grandmother, Mrs. Rufus Jennings. Winters, they lived in a little low shed-like building further back on the property. The little boy would come to the window and call to her grandfather "Ruffie, Ruffie, come out."

It is interesting when one realizes how valuable the chestnut trees were to the Indians and early people. For not only did this kind of tree make good charcoal but the Indians also used a chestnut log for their dugout canoes. These canoes would hold about fifty people.

The bark of the chestnut tree was used to make the Indians basket-like wigwam. These domed shaped wigwams were made by taking poles of hickory, bending them, sticking both ends in the ground and then covering them with chestnut bark. Mats covered the inner walls. Generally two families lived in these wigwams which would be about 16 feet in diameter.

The lands of the Pequonnock Indians reserved at Golden Hill in Stratfield had for some years been a matter of dispute between the descendants who were currently living there and the English. In 1763 the Indians petitioned the General Assembly requesting that their lands be restored to them. A committee was appointed by the assembly to investigate the situation. Their peti-

tion: "One Tom Sherman, his wife Eunice Sharon, Indian natives of Pequonnock, represented that they, together with many other Indians long since dead or dispersed into other places, were lawfully seized of about eighty acres of land at a place called Golden Hill in said Pequonnock; that they had many years enjoyed the same till some few years past, when said lands were all, except about six acres thereof, taken from them, and they thereof unjustly dissiezed by Gamaliel French and sundry others; and that in August 1763, one Richard Hall had unjustly seized the remaining six acres to their grievous wrong and injury. They therefore pray the Assembly to grant them a restoration of their lands".

In 1768 Daniel Morris was appointed guardian of these Indians. He had to report each year in June to the Probate Court an account of the use, profit and improvement made on the Golden Hill Reservation as well as to show records of any disbursements made to the Indians by him. Parts of some of the early deeds mention those first people of Fairfield.

It is interesting to note that on February 26, 1641 "the Indians of Norwalke are persuaded by largess of eighty fathom of wampum, tobacco, looking glasses and jews harps—to convey to Mst Roger Ludlowe of Fairfield the territory extending from the middle of the Norwalke River to the middle of the Saugatuck River and from the sea a day's walk in the country".

Indian deeds Sept. 11, 1660

Romanock of Aspetuck to his 'Daughter Praske called by the English Ann. "One parcel of land commonly called by the name Aspetock".

May 1, 1667

Crocreecrow to Nathaniel Seely. The "botome of Aspetuck Neck" between the Saugatuck and the Aspetuck about three quarters of a mile in depth.

There are undoubtedly many other tales which have been missed. It would be a delight to have them recorded e'er they are lost forever.





## CHAPTER 2

### 1639-1660

Roger Ludlowe,<sup>1</sup> the father of Connecticut jurisprudence who had come to America with George Hull on May 30, 1630 and who had accompanied the victorious force in the Swamp Fight in 1637, had been very impressed by the

<sup>1</sup> Roger Ludlowe, the second son of Thomas Ludlowe of Denton, Wiltshire was baptized if not born on March 7, 1590. He matriculated at Oxford from Boliol College in June 1610 but did not graduate. He became a student at the Inner Temple in 1612. The following years found him studying and practising law and within these years he acquired a professional experience which equipped him better than any other person who came to the new land at his time. Ludlowe set sail from Plymouth England on the 20th of March, 1630, as a member of the Dorchester Company in the ship "Mary and John". For five years he worked hard for the Massachusetts Colony and earned the right to be called Chief which the Bible awards to those who serve. The strong bent of his spirits to move about brought him to Connecticut where he settled in Windsor. On the Commission given by the General Court of Massachusetts to the eight men who were empowered to govern themselves at the new settlement in Connecticut, Roger Ludlowe's name appeared first on the list and Andrew Warde's last. That group of eight was to serve as Legislature and Executive for the new colony. Ludlowe continued to act as chief executive. This was the group that declared the Pequot War.

His name headed the list of magistrates who held the various courts on the River. When the Eleven Fundamental Orders of Connecticut were written, Roger Ludlowe was the artificer of their form. The language used was undoubtedly his and the principles involved were certainly his standards. On April 11, 1639, he was elected Deputy Governor. In 1643 the Colony chose him to review "the Souledears of the towns uppon the sea coast". In 1644, '45, '46, '47, '48, '49, '50, '51, '52 and '53 he was reelected Magistrate. In 1650 the General Court adopted a body of laws which ever since has carried his name as "Ludlowe's Code". Most of its articles are today embodied in our State's general legislation.

He served as the Commissioner from Connecticut to the United Colonies of New England (a federation) in 1648, and '51-'53 and when the peril from the Dutch was believed to have become imminent and the federated colonies seemed to act tardily, Fairfield in the fall of 1653 declared war all by herself and appointed Roger Ludlowe Commander in Chief of her forces. He proceeded at once to enlist these forces and have them drill. This made him very unpopular.

His first homelot, a tract of two acres on what is now Elliot Street was near the homelot of Andrew Warde on the same street. That lot was deeded in 1654 to Daniel Finch and Attorney Alexander Briant who in turn on the next day deeded it to Nathan Gold. That year marked the removal of Ludlowe from Fairfield. Ludlowe was too efficient to be round cornered, too energetic to be companionable, too direct to be diplomatic, too self-reliant and outspoken to be popular. He was a wilderness subduer and a foundation builder, not a social favorite. He returned to England about September 1654 where he immediately was chosen for one post of responsibility after another.

By the time Ludlowe withdrew from the settlement, people who were to carry the responsibility of Fairfield's history had been assigned land and were well established in this land of faire fields and rich meadows.

general beauty and richness of the land, near and about the area where the Pequots had finally been subdued. It was at the time of this conflict that he considered the idea that he might one day return there and start a settlement or a plantation as the records choose to call it.

In September 1639, when he was forty-nine years old, this dream became a partial reality for the "General Corte holden att Newton" (Hartford) gave him permission to settle at "Pequonnocke"—a district which started at the Pequonnock River and extended westerly probably as far as Ash Creek. As the little band moved along to Quinnipiocke (New Haven), several of their cattle were lost, but they failed to lose courage and continued on. As he reached the assigned spot of "Pequonnocke" he still pictured Uncoway. Thus together with his little group of adventurers and their remaining cattle, he "transgressed" his commission and moved on further west to his more favored Uncoway. John Green, Edward Jessup, Thomas Newton, Thomas Staples and Edmund Strickland made up his group of settlers, in part, if not in its entirety.

While Ludlowe was busy with his new settlement, the General Court continued to meet and he missed two sessions. He was fined five shillings for not being present at the second session. When the Court met again on October 3, he had to explain to the court that he had established his plantation at Uncoway rather than at Pequonnocke—he related that "att his coming to the Pequonnocke, he found cause to alter his former thoughts of wintering there" and finding that undesirable persons were planning to "take up a Plantation beyond—he adventured to drive his cattle thither—and to set out himself and some others, house lotts to build on there—and submits whether he had transgressed the Commission or not". After Roger Ludlowe's apology to the Court, they appointed Governor Haynes and Governor Wells to visit Uncoway and to



investigate. At a later date the investigators reported back that they had "thought fitt—to confirme" Mr. Ludlowe's acts at Uncoway and in April, 1640 Mr. Ludlowe, Mr. Haynes and Mr. Wells were chosen "to settle the bounds between Pequonnocke and Uncowaye" and to "tender the oath of Fidelity to the Inhabitants of the said Townes".

It was further stated that such were to be made free as they saw fit and the Town was ordered to send two deputies to the General Courts in April and September. For all law suits under forty shillings the townspeople were to hold court among themselves in Fairfield and to choose seven men among them with liberty to appeal to the General Court. Sergeant Nichols was appointed to train and exercise the men in military discipline.

In June of that same year, Ludlowe was ordered to "set the bounds betwixt the Plantation of Cuphege (now Stratford) and Uncowaye".

Those first families had come from Windsor. Another company came from Watertown and in 1644 a third group consisting of 16 families joined the earlier ones, coming from Concord. The latter group brought with them a minister, a Mr. Jones who had come from England. The first adventurers purchased a large tract of land from the Indians. Uncoway at that time was comprised of present day Fairfield, Greens Farms, Redding, Weston and the western section of Bridgeport. It extended from the bounds of Stratford to the western limits of the Sasqua Indians.

Uncoway was laid out in Four Squares with twenty-five or thirty acres included in each. There were five wide streets laid out as well—two running northeast and southwest and three running northwest and southeast all the way to the sound.

Fairfield has been organized from the very start. One Square contained the parsonage land for the use of the minister, another was for the Meeting House, the Court House and the School House, another was for a military or public park and a place for the burying ground, and the fourth one for the founder of the town. Large buttonball trees surrounded the Squares.

The winter of 1639 was rather uneventful and with the coming of Spring in 1640 the new colonists looked forward to their rewards of abundant crops from the rich virgin soil. The first town house was built and served a tri-purpose—town house, school house and meeting

house. It continued as a town house and school house until 1693.

Every effort was made to use the land well. Rules and regulations were established. It was made necessary for each family to plant one teaspoon of English hemp seed. Each family had to raise at least half a pound of flax in order to be assured of a linen supply, specific directions for planting having been given. Every person who kept cattle was expected to sow ten perches (ten rods) of hemp (or flax) or undergo the censure of the court. A committee was appointed to provide appropriate fencing to protect the crops and also to keep the cattle under complete control. If any family possessed more than one spoonful of hemp seed, they were required to sell it to a neighbor who was not as well supplied. The pelts and skins of the animals had to be carefully preserved and dressed for use at home.

Apparently in lieu of an epidemic of profiteering, a wage scale of twenty pence a day for a day's work was set for the period from the 10th of March to the 11th of October and eighteen pence a day for the remaining part of the year. The work day was eleven hours for the first period and ten hours for the latter. That wage scale included carpenters, masons, wheel-rights, plowrights, smiths, coopers and joiners. Twenty pence for a day's work was the rate for a mower. Sawyers for three inch planks were not to exceed above three shillings six pence a day for boards by the hundred and boards were not to be sold for more than five shillings, six pence per hundred.

Roger Ludlowe was appointed by the General Court to enforce the laws of the Colony in the new settlement and thus became Fairfield's first judge. As Hartford, the seat of the General Court, was such a distance, he and Mr. Hopkins of Stratford were ordered to hold Court in each place. Tribute was also collected from the Indians at this time and Ludlowe was appointed to carry out this responsibility. The first magistrates for Uncoway were appointed in 1643.

In 1641-1642 the Dutch activities were beginning to become a bother to the settlers because of their selling ammunition to the Indians. The Colonists feared that all of the Indians might join together for an all out war. It seemed that Miantonimo, chief of the Narragansetts, had entered into an agreement with the Indians of the Hartford and Middletown area and Adam, an Indian whom the General Court of Massa-



chusetts had granted to Roger Ludlowe in 1634 as an household servant, reported to his master that Miantonimo had been to Long Island and with gifts of wampum, had entreated those sachems there to join him. The Colonists' fears became very real. Laws made it illegal to sell arms to the Indians or to repair any for them. Fairfield's Indians too were restless.

The Indians about Fairfield were fond of war, and often soliciting the Old Indian chief, for leave to destroy the English. Once they obtained it on condition of pulling up a large neighboring white oak tree. Well, to work they went, and stript off its branches, but still the trunk baffled their utmost endeavors.

'Thus,' says the Old Sachem, 'will be the end of your war. You may kill some of their papposes, but the old plaguey stump tother side the great waters will remain and send out more branches.'<sup>1</sup>

The United Colonies of New England became a reality just about this time and the various colonies joined in a federation for the purpose of friendship, defense, offense, and mutual aid.

War with the Indians continued to seem inevitable.

Up until this time the ruling elders and deacons of the settlement had been responsible for the discipline of the group. As the third group of settlers arrived, bringing with them a minister, this responsibility was lightened to a degree. Reverend John Jones was welcomed and given a dwelling house and seven acres of land. To these people this meant that they were actually becoming a unit. In 1645 the name of the settlement was changed from Uncoway to Fairfield.

Finally, in 1646, the Indians submitted to the English, the troops disbanded and a general thanksgiving was celebrated in Fairfield and the other towns. However, this same year the Dutch started to become very exacting about their lands. They claimed all lands, rivers, streams and islands from Cape Henlopen to Cape Cod and all of the lands in the United Colonies under an ancient grant to the Dutch, which had been purchased by them from the Indians. Thus continued the great anxiety among the Fairfield settlers for their own safety.

Life went on however and the people did more and more to make their surroundings pleasant and convenient. In 1648 the first mill was built and Henry Jackson was selected to grind the grist. The Bankside farmers who lived

at the western side of the plantation were not pleased with their land settlements and disagreements arose between them and the Norwalk planters. The Bankside farmers had become wealthy from their vast crops. Some of them even owned slaves.

It was about this time (1651) that witchcraft had become one of the modes of the day and Fairfield too was included in this delusion. It seemed that as Goody Basset of Stratford was about to be executed, she was heard to say that there was another witch in Fairfield. A poor, simple-minded woman named Knapp, Goody Knapp, was suspected of witchcraft. She was tried, condemned and hanged at Try's field which was near the Indian field in Black Rock. This was the sixth case of witchcraft in the Colony.

In 1653 the Indians were still troublesome and the settlers were extremely anxious over the seriousness of the trouble between England and Holland. The renewed problems along the Sound too were a worry. Governor Stuyvesant once again made his claim to Connecticut. All the claims that he had renounced in 1650 in Hartford he simply renewed.

War seemed to ring in the air on all sides and plans were formulated to meet it head on. Connecticut's quota of men for the first expedition in the event of war was sixty men and eight of these were to come from Fairfield. They were to be ready to march at a day's warning. Lieutenant Thomas Wheeler was to be one of the officers for the Connecticut contingent. Andrew Warde and William Hill were made commissaries. Roger Ludlowe had been sent to Massachusetts to treat with the Bay Colony in their opposition to the declaration of war on the Dutch. They continued to decline to unite in the prosecution of a war and Ludlowe made a second trip to Boston to try and point out the necessity for such a declaration. At home in Connecticut, preparation for war continued.

The Dutch too were equally disturbed and anxious. There was great dissatisfaction in New England generally at that time because of the strong colonial laws and Governor Stuyvesant's tyrannical rule was very annoying to the Dutch. Connecticut's mildness of rule stood out vividly against that of the other colonial districts.

The Dutch military were sent to Connecticut and "lay in the road near the opening of Fairfield harbor"—Black Rock. As one can imagine, their presence caused a real stir in Fairfield.

<sup>1</sup> E. H. Schenck. The History of Fairfield Vol. 1., pg. 29. William Wheeler's Journal.



Thus a meeting was called here and it was decided to prepare an army at once. Roger Ludlowe was appointed Commander-in-Chief. The excited town began to drill their men immediately for this critical period. This move was not supported immediately by the other colonies of Connecticut nor by the federation of New England at all. With the Dutch troops at hand, an attack was expected momentarily, and Fairfield was left to protect itself without help from anyone.

It was at that moment that Roger Ludlowe's popularity began to wane. In addition to his unpopular decision to declare war, he was also the victim of a law suit brought against him by Thomas Staples. It seems that Ludlowe had collected statements from many of the citizenry saying that Mrs. Staples was a witch. Other circumstances tended to make him discouraged and he decided to return to England. He still felt that war with the Dutch was inevitable. He had watched Fairfield grow from a green wilderness to an established town. It was a distinguished work and one of monumental proportions but his loss of status among his colleagues depressed him and he left for his native homeland.

The Dutch were still foremost in the worries of the townspeople and again in 1654 Fairfield and her neighbors buzzed with activity preparing for war. The Dutch had pleaded with Governor Stuyvesant to seek peace with the English, but instead he simply became more and more enraged. When the word reached the Colonies that Holland and England had finally declared peace, the news proved to be joyous to both the Dutch and the English in New England. Even Governor Stuyvesant rejoiced and his words are included here: "Praise the Lord O England's Jerusalem; & Netherland's Zion. Praise the Lord! He both secured your gates, & blessed your possessions with peace, even here, where the threatened torch of war was lighted; where waves reached our lips, & subsided only through the power of the Almighty."<sup>1</sup>

The Indian troubles seemed to have developed anew meanwhile and an army was in preparation to fight them. Connecticut was to supply forty-five men and six were to be chosen from Fairfield. At this time there were seventy-four taxable persons in Fairfield and their estates were valued at £8,634.

In April 1656 all of the Chief Sachems of the Indians living in Fairfield gathered for the pur-

pose of giving a deed to the settlers for the Town of Fairfield. These lands had been purchased from them by Roger Ludlowe but it was hard for them to realize, that once they had sold them for some wampum,<sup>2</sup> a few coats and perhaps some hatchets, spades, looking glasses, jews harps, hoes and kettles they did not have any rights to them. After debating the limits of their assigned reservations, they gave the following deed for Pequonnock and Uncoway:

#### DEED OF PEQUONNOCK & UNCOWAY

Whereas there have been several Indians who have made claime to much of ye land yt ye Town of Fairfield have & doe possess, ye Town of Fairfield having taken ye matter into consideration, ordered & appointed Alexandre Knowles, Henry Jackson, Francis Purdy, with several others, should treat with Pequonnock Indians concerning, & upon ye treaty with those Indians, whose names are underwritten in ye behalf of all ye Pequonnock Indians, they have agreed as followeth: First, they own ye land yt ye Town is built upon, from ye Creeke yt ye Tide-Mill of Fairfield, South Westward is called Sasqua which they own, have been purchased from ye Indians, & is now ye Englishe's Land; Secondly, ye sd. Indians have acknowledged, consented to & granted yt all that tract of land which they call Uncoway (which is from the above sd. Creek Eastward unto ye bounds between Fairfield & Stratford) from ye sea, to run into ye Country seven or eight Miles: for ye future it shall be ye land and property of ye Inhabitants of ye Town of Fairfield: Giving & granting to ye sd. Town of Fairfield all ye above sd. tract of Land called Uncoway with all ye Creeks, Rivers, Ponds, Woods & privileges thereto belonging or appertaining to be to ye sd. Fairfield, ye Inhabitants thereof & to their heirs forever, quietly to enjoy and possess it: & they do promise & engage yt neither they nor their heirs, nor any other Indians shall for ye future molest or trouble ye sd. English in ye quiet possession of ye sd. land: Only it is to be noted yt ye field which ye Indians now possess, called ye Indian field, which is a small neck of land or ye other side of ye creek, is excepted, ye Indians still keeping their property in that small neck or field: ye Indians are to have ye privilege of killing deer within ye above sd. tract of land: only they are not to set any traps within ye sd. tract of land: In witness of all which ye sd. Indians have hereunto set to their hands this 20th March 1656.

Whereas ye above sd. Land is granted to ye town

<sup>2</sup> E. H. Schenck—The History of Fairfield Vol. I, pg. 22.

Indian Wampum, wampumpeag, or peag which was made of the ends of a periwinkle shell and the back part of a clam shell, was at first received in trafficking with the Indians, and for a time was used as money among the planters. The beads were small and of white, purple and black, about a quarter of an inch in length and in diameter less than a pipe stem, drilled lengthwise, and strung upon a thread. The white beads were rated half the value of the black or violet. At one time a fathom, or string of wampum consisted of 360 beads, and was valued at 60 pence, 6 white beads one penny, 360 black beads 120 pence, and 3 black beads one penny. Their value however varied from time to time.

<sup>1</sup> Bryant's History United States II 149.



of Fairfield by ye sd. Indians, we also manifest or respects unto them, yt we do engage upon sufficient warning, to cart them their stuffie for them to erect & build a fort, & upon this consideration ye sd. Indians have acknowledged ye above grant.

Umpeter Nosset, X his mark.

Nimrod, or Pocunnoe, X his mark.

Matamuck, X his mark.

Authonyes, alias Lotashau, X his mark.

Washau, X his mark.

Signed & delivered in presence & witness of us,

Alexander Knowles.

Thomas Pell.

Henry Jackson.

Nathan Gold.

George Hull.

This is a true copy according to the original, compared by me & recorded this 25. February, 1685.

Nathan Gold, Recorder.<sup>1</sup>

After Ludlowe left, a period of apathy followed, for he had been such a strong, energetic and respected leader that it was difficult to find any one who could take his place. Nathan Gold who had served as town clerk, captain of the

trained band and judge was made a magistrate of the General Court in 1657 and for a good while afterward seemed to maintain a position of leadership in the town. Alexander Knowles was elected a magistrate the next year.

Unrest and insecurity continued to peek around every corner turned by these settlers. The New England Colonies in general during this period were still plagued by the Indians at home, and a new fear that their favor with England might vanish as Charles II ascended the throne shrouded their homes daily. Even though there had been little or no official communication with the Connecticut colonies and the English Government since its beginning, the early planters felt a deep relationship with the rulers of their mother land. Apparently the infant colony in Fairfield and the earlier towns had been pretty much left to their own slender resources to struggle with innumerable difficulties and hardships as best they could.

The days were dark but each in his own way went about his tasks in a solemn and sincere manner.

<sup>1</sup> E. H. Schenck—The History of Fairfield Vol. I, page 93-94. Also Book A—Town Deeds pg 437.

## CHAPTER 3

### 1661-1700

ONE may well wonder why the year 1661 appears as the opening of a new section, but this is where the available Town Meetings minutes begin. What happened to the earlier ones shall ever remain a mystery. Some have thought that Roger Ludlowe may have taken them with him when he returned to England but no real conclusion has ever been reached on this thought.

#### *Minutes of Town Meetings<sup>1</sup>—First Meeting—1661*

The Towne hath this day ordered that whereas it appears that many inhabitants of the Towne want Land for a present improvement the Towne hath voted that there shall be a new planting field or fields laid out over the Mill River above Creecros brook upon the neck there: to those inhabitants of the towne that shall desire to have land laid out there provided that there shall none have any more land laid to them above six acres for a family: and as much less or more as they please: provided also that as such Land as is taken up shall be laid down to the Common at Ten years end after this date it is also provided that they shall maintain a sufficient fence about their fields while it is under their improvement: and when they lay it down at the end of Ten years they are to lay it smooth and sow it with hay seed: And if any shall not fence their proportions for their land when their neighbors do: they shall only forfeit their lands and the rest in the field shall have the benefit of the improvement of the said land: such fencing for it: it is also ordered that such lands in the fields that are not fit for improvement that be esteemed waste land although it be within the fence: also it is agreed that men shall draw lots for the place where they shall lie in the field: John Banks & Jehu Burr are appointed to lay out the field or fields and to measure out every man's several proportions of land & such as they take up the land is to pay them their wages: men have liberty for one week after this date to bring to the secretary what proportion of land they desire provided it be not above six acres a year and if any will after that they have put in already in the week following they may have liberty so to do: (7) whereas Mr. Gold hath a hundred Acres of land lying about the old mill hill: the Town & Mr. Gold have agreed as followeth Mr. Gold (upon consideration following) doth surrender up the said hundred

Acres to the Town of Fairfield for ever for and in Consideration thereof the town grants to Mr. Gold that the creek that Samuel Morehouse's mill stand on: shall have no dam in it so made as to dam the water to hurt the meadowe in his pasture. 2 The Town grants to him twenty-five Acres of land to be laid out to him and his heirs forever by Henry Jackson, William Ward, John Banks & John Wheeler: in some convenient place as they shall think meet: or twenty Acres and a swamp on the farther end of Clapboard Hill if these men shall think meet: only it is provided that if the town in future time shall see Cause to erect a mill on the said Creek above them Mr. Gold is to have laid out to him & his heirs for ever seventy-five Acres of land in some convenient place provided it be not beyond three miles of the Towne: and if the town shall see cause to erect a mill again upon the said Creek the Towne hath the same liberty of daming the water as the town had before the above said agreement: the major part of the Committee above hath the power of the whole in ye premises. Henry Jackson, John Wheeler & George Squire are to lay out all the common highways on the other side of the Creek & Jehu Burr & Cornelius Hull are to lay out the common highways in the great field, & meadows on this side of the creek—20 January, 1661. [sic].

Fairfield at this point had become the leading town in the western part of Connecticut and it was the center of navigation as well as the seat of the county courts. Grain and timber were both exported. The people of the community had for the first time become rather prosperous. At this particular moment, the minutes show that there was much concern by the townspeople as a whole about the division of land, the condition of the fences, the care of the land entrusted to each family, the safety of each family, and the integrity of all newcomers. Each family was at first given six acres of land and as much more or less additional as they pleased. Initially the land was to be held, cared for and improved for ten years and then returned to become Common ground once again. As long as the fields were improved and fenced by the new owners they continued to own them but once the people faltered, the land returned to the Town or was given to someone who would care for it.

<sup>1</sup> The Minutes of the Town Meetings are quoted again and again from here on but in every instance, corrections have been made in the spelling of the words.



A new planting field was established in the Sasqua fields for all who had need there. At a later Town Meeting it was decided that more land or the great fields would be allocated, according to the size of the family.

The Town hath ordered that there shall be a new dividend of Land out of the Common to about 320 Acres: to be proportioned to the Inhabitants of the Towne by the value following: to a master of family half an acre to a wife a quarter of an acre, a child a quarter & every hundred pound estate 2 Acres and so proportionately either more or less: John Burr, Thomas Staples, John Banks & William Ward are appointed to lay out the fields at both ends of the Town where they shall think meet and to lay out every man's proportion of land: every Inhabitant is to bring to the recorder what number of Children he hath, between this and Tuesday night next: under the penalty of forfeiting the land due to such children.

That same year — 1661 — on the 20th of March a quit claim deed for the most western part of the General Court grant of land of 1649 was taken from the Maxumux and Sasqua Indians. Those deeds follow.

#### DEED OF SASQUA

Know all men by these presents, yt<sup>1</sup> we whose names are underwritten, have sold, & do by these presents, sell, alienate & assigne over unto ye Inhabitants of Fairfield, all that tract of land commonly called Sasqua, bounded on ye north-east with ye land called Uncoway, on ye south-west with ye land at Maxumux, ye line on southwest runs close to ye English farmes at Maxumux, and this tract of land is for run from ye sea straight up into the country six miles at ye least, taking in all ye land yt lie within that length south-west to sd bounds, between us & ye farmes, (or—if Sasqua land run on ye farm's mile, yt land also to be included,) & do to close with ye land yt we purchased of Pequonnock Indians, as by a writing made under their hand, Dated ye 20th March 1656: ye Inhabitants of Fairfield, they & their heirs, are to possess & enjoy this land forever, in as free & full a manner as we have done: we have sold all ye above sd tract of land, with all ye privileges appurtenances, as Rivers, trees, ponds or whatever privileges thereunto pertaining to ye said Inhabitants, for a consideration yt. fully satisfies us; only we will have liberty of hunting in ye woods,—only we are to set no traps within ye six mile: We also acknowledge yt we are true proprietors of ye above sd land: We also acknowledge we have given in ye Indian field before this sale, eight acres of land to James Beers, in witness of all which we have hereunto set to ye hands this 20. March 1660-61.

It is also provided yt if in future time Sasqua Indians, ye property pertains to them or their children, if they should want some land to plant on, ye town of Fairfield is to allow them some land to plant on for their livelyhood within their bounds, in such

places as they shall appoint, and ye sd Indians do also sell liberty to ye town of Fairfield, to be commoners in all their land beyond the above sd six miles: ye Indians are to fence their land sufficiently: In witness of all ye above sd., ye sd Indians, have hereunto set their hands this 20. March 1660-61.

Witnessed: Musquot X his mark  
Nim X rods marke Solamorton's } X his mark  
Anthony's X mk Poppoos }  
James alias } X his mark  
Wotussawatum }  
Tospee X his mark Panuncamo X his mark  
Cramheag's Squaw } X  
Solamorton's Sister } his  
Wissahoes } mark  
Wompegan X his mark

These 4 names subscribed signed,  
ye witnesses witnessed, but they  
were here not present with them.

We whose names are underwritten, being under age  
when this sale was made fully consent to ye above  
sd sale, as Witness our hand this 16th October 1679.

Creconoes X his mark  
Chickins X his mark  
Witness —  
William Hill, Recorder  
Robt. Bisburn  
John Basset  
John Jones (his mark)

This is a true copy according to ye originall record,  
& recorded by me this 25. Janry 1685.

Nathan Gold—Recorder.

A, Town Deeds, p. 439

(Indorsed) Sasqua Deed, 20 March 1660-61.

Whereas there is a deed of sale written of Sasqua land, & ye Indians had showed ye English yt Sasqua did run west as far as ye Muddy Creeke, & so to run into ye country; & whereas it doth now appear yt some of Norwalk Indians are ye true proprietors of part of this tract of land: this Day Being ye 11th of April 61, ye sd Norwalk Indians & Sasqua Indians, both meeting together, have agreed: ye sd Norwalk proprietors being contented with ye sale of ye tract of land: shall be extended west as far as ye Muddy Creek near Compo, & so to run into ye Country unto Aspetuck River: & they do by these presents acknowledge yt sd land as far as ye Muddy Creek shall for ye future pertaine to ye inhabitants of Fairfield and to their heirs for ever: In witness whereof they have hereunto set their hands this 11th April 1661: ye creek above called ye Muddy Creek: ye Indian's name is Werappamaucke.

Momechemen X (his mark)  
Weenam X (his mark)  
Tospee X (his mark)  
Quanumscoes X (his mark)  
Aucan X (his mark)

We whose names are underwritten do acknowledge  
yt ye Indians have received thirteen Coats, 2 yards  
apiece, and ye rest in Wampum, which is all yt  
Uncoway Englishmen were to pay them for ye Sasqua land, & as far as ye Muddy Creeke. Witness  
or hands this 11th April 1661:

Panoucamus X (his mark)  
Muskot X (his mark)  
James X (his mark)

<sup>1</sup> Yt stands for "that".



Witnesse

Mamachin X (his mark)

Weenam X (his mark)

The above are true copies wording to ye original  
compared and Recorded by me,

Nathan Gold, Recorder

This 25. of February 1685.

(Endorsed) Sasqua Land—April 11, 1661.<sup>1</sup>

This brought further land problems to the Town for the Bankside farmers or the farmers at Maxumux as they were so often referred to, were not at all pleased with this action of the town and the bad feeling remained ever in evidence for the next fifty years.

In January 1662 John Cable and John Banks were granted "all the waste meadow in the south west end and in Sasco Neck, which lay above a dam that it was proposed should be made to prevent the tide from overflowing the meadows". The dam mentioned here was to be made over Pine Creek, with a sluice to draw out the fresh water above it. Everyone was welcome to help with this provided he did his share in draining the creek and building the dam. For his reward in the enterprise, each planter who helped received a share of the salt meadows. "Should the dam not be sufficient or should it decay", the land then returned to the town. From the very outset one realizes the importance of each person to the other, of each property to the other, and of each effort to the other.

Throughout these early pages of Town Meeting minutes one notes again and again how important the fences around the lands were to each planter and his neighbor. The condition of each fence was of genuine concern to every farmer. Fence viewers were chosen to check on the condition of the settlers' fences every month. The informers of defects in fences had to pay for the "fence viewers" time when other than a routine check was called for. Page after page gives details of direction to the fence viewer and his post was one of great importance and respect. In 1663

the Towne orders that all possessors of all the home lots in the Towne shall make and maintain their dividing fence between them and their neighbor's home lott or home lots, as also their share of common fence pertaining to the home lots: with a sufficient fence, etc, etc, etc.

And:

The towne hath given all ye Common in Sascoe Field within ye new line unto the proprietors of the land in the said field to be divided among them as they shall agree for their encouragement *for the fencing of their lines.*

<sup>1</sup> A, Town Deeds 672, 673.

The task of the Fence Viewer soon gained in size and two teams of fence viewers were appointed—one for the eastern side of town and one for the western side of town. During the period the records seem to show that the activity of the town was primarily in the western section of the town.

In August 1666 the Townsmen voted that "anyone who left the gates open which guarded the common fields if they were capable of being shut, should be fined five shillings". The Fence Viewers, along with the other officers, were chosen at a meeting of the freemen—a Town Election. They were the voters of their time. On April 1, 1668 John Hide, D. Burr, William Ward, John Bulkley, Thomas Jones, James Bennett, John Sturges, Ezekial Sanford, John Cable Jr., Daniel Lockwood, and John Barlow took the oath as freemen—were made voters.

1666 marked several important events for Fairfield. It was made a Shire town that year and it was also made the seat of the Probate Court for Fairfield County. This year also saw Fairfield County as such established.

The Indians continued to be a worry and it was voted that they were not required to train, nor could a strange Indian be entertained under penalty of 40 shillings a month. In order for the Indians to sell their lands or houses they had to first obtain the consent of the town. Guns carried by Indians into town were seized and not redeemed under a penalty of 10 shillings. This was later changed to allow not more than ten Indians carrying guns to pass through town. They were also forbidden to walk up and down in town after dark. In 1668 a Committee was appointed to purchase any land from the Indians which had not already been secured and finally on September 10, 1670 a committee was appointed to buy the last remaining six acres of the Town's Commons from the Indians. The Indians agreed

that the Towne shall give them 36 pounds for it—the Town hath agreed with Mr. Jehu Burr to procure the pay for the Towne he promises so to do in Trucking Cloth (Bargaining Cloth). The Towne to have it at 10 shillings a yard. The Towne engages to pay him for it in winter wheat at 5 shillings per bushel or Indian corn at 2 shillings per bushel—every particular man may pay which he pleases to be paid at or before the last of January.

Also, on September 28, 1670

The Towne hath chosen Goodman Hubble to buy and procure a piece of Trading Cloth about 30 yards for the use of the Towne to pay for the Indian pur-



chase and if he fails the Town empowers Mr. Daniel Burr & John Banks to procure the Trucking Cloathe at Yorke or other where: and what the above said agents or any of them shall engage for pay for the cloathe, the Towne will make it good and pay them any just expense of time for the procuring of it.

The Towne hath chosen Goodman Banks (John Banks) Sergeant Seeley and James Beers to go with the Indians and bound the land to the end of the Towne bounds that we are buying of the Indians. The Towne hath chosen Jehu Burr in the roome of (in place of) Daniel Burr to join with Goodman Banks to procure the Trucking Cloathe for the Indian purchases and the said men are impowered what Trucking Cloathe they think needful to send for by a messenger to Yorke: upon the Towne Account.

The year 1668 brought several other interesting regulations into being through Town votes: "William Ward and William Hill are to again in the behalf of the Towne to agree with some persons to beat the drum for the meetings on Sabbath and Election days." Steven Sherwood was chosen to carry out this order on "Sabbath days and Election days" and at town meetings as well and was also given the duties "to cause the meeting house to be swept" and to keep the dogs out. He received 40 shillings for his work. Also "the Towne orders that the Towne Rate (taxes) shall be gathered within 10 days after this date, the Rate Gatherers that are chosen are John Burr and Tho. Lyon. Thomas Lyon to give the Towne warning to bring in their rates to John Burr. John Burr is only to make the accounts up with men and if it be not gathered within 10 days the marshall is to levy on it." Taxes for England, the mother land, were to be paid in 1/3 dry peas and 2/3 wheat that year. These in turn would be sold and the funds sent to the homeland.

The Towne ordered further that all the Common Fields in the Towne should be hained of cattle at the middle of March next. The Common lands were to be preserved for grass at this time.

Then a penalty for shooting in the center of town was established—"shall within one mile of the meeting house—except it be in the meadow toward the sea—shoot at any mark with bullets or shot shall forfeit to the Towne Treasury five shillings for every such default half of it to go to the informer & the other half to the Towne's use."

A day was also set apart to burn the woods. Cornelius Hull and William Ward were chosen a committee to set the day—this day to be announced by the drummer. On that day every man was to "repair" to his fences to keep them from burning. A fine was levied upon anyone who

should burn at any other time or who damaged the new fences.

Every male from fourteen years of age upward except assistants, commissioners or ministers of the gospel had to work one day in June each year in cutting and clearing the underwood so that the pasture land would ever become larger. This has always been a community where everyone has worked hard and together for each other.

At that same time the boundary line between Stratford and Fairfield was established by Richard Olmstead, Joseph Judson and John Banks and a report of same made to the General Assembly. John Hurd and Joseph Judson of Stratford were appointed to settle the boundary line between Fairfield and Norwalk at the charge of the two towns.

Our predecessors were always struggling to improve what was theirs. The Meeting House, it seemed, was now in need of plastering and the cost and procedure follows: "seven pence per yard for all the worke below the girt and six pence per yard for all upper worke, the windows, doors and behind the great Pew being not meddled with is not to be recovered."

Reverend Jones having passed away, Reverend Samuel Wakeman became the new pastor by a free vote of the Townsmen at this time. The Church business of course was town business as the minister was paid from the Town Rate. "The Towne orders that whatever is due upon the ministers rates shall be paid before the first March next. Mr. Wakeman shall receive it out of the Towne treasury . . ."

"The Towne hath chosen John Wheeler and William Ward to go to each Inhabitant of the Towne to see what they will underwrite—what they will give to Mr. Wakeman more than their rates as an addition to his maintenance for the year ensuing." It seemed that one problem after another confronted these plucky adventurers.

The Bankside farmers continued their dissatisfaction and defied the efforts of the Townsmen to be included within the Town's limits on the strength of the fact that they had purchased the lands *first* from the Maxumux Indians. They had fenced in a large meadow north of Sherwood's Island called the horse pasture. A herdsman was always on duty. A final agreement was entered into:

Articles of Agreement between Nathan Gold, John Banks, John Burr, Cor. Hull & William Hill, on behalf of the Town of Fairfield, of the one party,



& the farmers at Maxumux, alias called Bankside on the other party, witnesseth:

Imprimis. It is agreed that the above said farmers & the town of Fairfield shall for the future be one township. The above said farmers do adjoin their mile as an addition to the bounds of the town of Fairfield; & said farmers are to be equal in town privileges & charges, according to their proportion, with the rest of the inhabitants of the town of Fairfield. The said farmers are to be subject to town orders about fencing or whatever else shall be ordered, as any other inhabitants of the town of Fairfield are.

2. It is agreed that the farmers shall possess as their propriety all such land & meadows as they have already in fence, with all such mowable marsh as lieth without fence, as is on the east side of Compo creek, leading up to Muddy river, which they have now in their possession. 3. That if said farmers desire it, there shall be laid forth to each farmer, in some convenient place, fifteen acres of upland for their use and propriety. 4. It is agreed that John Green shall enjoy freely five acres he possesseth on the west side of Compo creek, to be to him & his heirs forever, if the town see good to grant it. 5. It is agreed that there shall be maintained out of the town treasury, a sufficient foot-bridge over Sascoco & the Mill rivers. 6. It is agreed that the farmers shall appoint at some inhabitant's house within half a mile of the meeting-house, where notices shall be left of any town meeting which shall be to them a sufficient warning. 7. It is agreed that such agreement as said farmers have already entered into about a bridge over Gallup's Gap going to their lands, shall be abiding as formerly, each with the other, notwithstanding the above agreement of the farmers with the town. 8. It is agreed that such Indian deeds, whether by gift or purchase, shall be surrendered up to the town upon consideration of the premises by the farmers. 9. It is agreed that the farmers' west bridge near their houses, which now lieth over the creek, shall for the future be maintained out of the town treasury. The farmers with cows are not to pay to the town herd. 10. It is agreed that the true meaning of the above said third article concerning the grant of more land, doth only respect the five first farmers that settled there, viz.: Thomas Newton, Daniel Frost, Henry Gray, John Green & Francis Andrews. 11. It is agreed that the farmers grant unto Robt. Beacham of two acres of land, which lieth within fence, shall remain good & valid to the true performance. All the above said parties have hereunto set their hands this 29th day of June, 1666.<sup>1</sup>

Daniel Frost  
John Green  
Simon Couch  
Henry F. Smith

Every town was to brand all horses within the town and the color and age of the horse were to be recorded. "F" was chosen as the brand for Fairfield. A fine of 20 shillings was imposed

upon the owner of any horse without this mark.

The oath of fidelity to the king was ordered to be administered by Major Gold to all within the town and should anyone refuse to take it, their names were to be reported to the General Assembly in Hartford.

Discipline was the mandate of the day. Strict orders were in effect in every town and every trained soldier was to be on the alert at all times. In Fairfield, poles were secured for the fort—"four teams cart one day for to draw the poles to the fort upon the Towne's charge provided the Pequonnock Indians will give in a list of the names of their men properly pertaines to them: Richard Hubble is appointed to call out the carts that are to work: Mr. Gold is to take the names of the Indians . . .".

And pikes were ordered for the Town Magazine—30 half pikes and 20 large pikes—"said pikes to be speedily provided and well headed with iron." (A pike was an infantry weapon with a long shaft and a comparatively small metal head in the shape of a diamond or a leaf.) Undesirable guests were still being warned out of town. Any person who had been thus warned and failed to obey had to pay a fine of 20 shillings a week to the town treasury and in default of that payment, had to sit in the stocks for one hour or else be punished corporally! Fairfield was given liberty to raise a standing body of about forty horsemen for its defense.

As Fairfield was now the Shire town, it became a place of influence in the Colony. People came by boats which were anchored in Black Rock harbor to take the oath of allegiance to the king and become freemen, to seek redress for wrongs or to contend for their chartered liberties. Learned men represented the plantation at the General Assembly in Hartford. Sedate and solemn judges in powdered wigs presided over the court sessions. The ablest men in the country were drawn here to attend the Court on the Town Green.

In 1670 the Town Records show the following division of land—the long lots, the Mile and the Half-Mile Common. The names of those residing in Fairfield a year later are also recorded.

#### *Division of Land — 1670*

The Towne hath ordered that there shall be one mile broad from the above said half mile common to run into the Country to the end of the bounds to remain a common forever: It is also ordered that all the lands on both sides of the mile common necessary highways excepted shall be laid out to the Inhabitants of the Towne that hath right to divide:

<sup>1</sup> State Archives, Hartford, Conn. B. Town Votes, pg. 22.



proportionately according to their due: To be laid out by houserow according to the method prescribed in the above said orders: about Laying out pastures and building Lots, Widow Wheeler to begin next to Stratford bounds and Simon Couch and Andrews to begin next Norwalk bounds and so the neighborhood to take it up successively inward till all have their proportions:

John Banks, Sergeant Squire, Cor. Hull and Mr. Harvey are appointed to lay out the above said building Lots and pastures and to lay out highways they think necessary among the said lots and pastures: also they are appointed to lay out to every man his proportion of land: on the abovesaid Lands Lying on both sides of the mile common every man to begin in his place next the half mile common and so run back to the end of out bounds necessary highways to be laid out.

The Towne orders that Mr. Wakeman shall have his proportion of Common according to his persons and the value of his rateable estate.

The Towne orders that there shall be laid to the parsonage a proportion of common after the rate of Two hundred pound estate:

The Towne orders that there shall be laid to a school commonage after the rate of a hundred pound estate:

The Townsmen is to Correct the list of the Inhabitants estate with respect to their receiving of lands: wherein there are hired servants by the years to be deducted from them.

#### NAMES OF THOSE IN TOWN

W: Wheeler	P. Clapham
f: Hals farm	R: Ogden
Jos Whelplie	N: Burr
Jno: Odell	D. Lockwood
W: Wilson	Applegate
Jno Bulkley	Jno Barlow Sr.
T: Staples	L: Smith
W: Adams	J: Tomkins
S: Treadwell	mr Je: Burr
S. Ward	Jno Banks
R: Meeker	R: Beachem
Ja: Bennett	R: Knapp
Jno Grumman	C. Hull
Js: Wheeler	Mr. Wakeman
J. S. Lockwood	Sr: Seeley
Mrs. Jones	H. Rowland
John Barlow sr.	S. Drake
R: Rumsie	T: Bennett
R: Hubble	ff Bradley
Jno Banks	P: Barlow
Js: Wakeman	T: Jones
J: Wheeler	P: Cole
T: Morehouse	T. Lyon
Jno Burr	Ben Turney
G: Squire Jur	Jno Cable Jur.
O: Odell	T: Sherwinton
Jos: Knowles	Mo: Dimon
D: Finch	St: Sherwood
Jno Tomson	S: Couch
T: Sherwood	Ja: Gray
N: Perry	Andrewes
W. Hill	Jno Green

E: Sandford  
S: Hedge  
R. Lyon  
T: Oliver  
Jos: Jennings  
School  
T: Turnie  
R: Osborn  
S: Godwin  
Jos Middlebrook  
Jno Hide  
Jno Bennet  
Sarah Wilson  
Jhn Sturges  
Jno Smith  
D: Burr  
S: Smith  
Mr: Harvey  
M. Sherwood  
D: Frost

H: Jackson  
M: Try  
T: Skidmore  
Henricke  
D: Silevant  
O: Gilbert  
Parsonage  
S: Morehouse  
Jno Cable Senr  
Js Sherwood  
Sr Squire  
H Hide  
Mr. Pell  
mr. Gold  
Jno Knowles  
Patchin  
W: Ward  
Ja Beers  
T: Wilson

The Half Mile of Common which extended across Town formed the division line between the building and pasture lots on the southeast and the Long Lots above it. The Long Lots commenced on the north-west of the Half Mile of Common and lay on the east and west sides of the Mile of Common which extended to the northern limits of the town.

#### DEED OF INDIAN LANDS—19 January 1670

Know all men by these presents yt we whose names are written do acknowledge yt ye Town of Fairfield hath formerly bought of ye true Indian proprietors several purchases as Compo neck, Paquannock, Uncoway and Sasco, ye breadth of ye Town of Seven miles Six miles from ye Sea unto ye Country, and whereas there remains several tracts of Lands within ye Lands of sd Town yet unpurchased, we do acknowledge yt er ye Subscribers hereof have formerly sold and do by these presents Sell, assign and set over from us, and from our heirs to ye sd Town of Fairfield forever, all ye lands meadows, Rivers, Ponds, with all ye appurtenances thereof, contained within ye bounds of sd Fairfield Town, which before this Deed was not purchased to ye North End of ye bounds, which Extends from ye sea at least twelve miles, as part of ye North bounds hath been already marked both by ye Indians and ye English, this Sale we have made for and in Consideration of a valuable Consideration to us already paid: ye lands are bound on ye East with ye bounds of ye Town of Stratford, on ye west with ye bounds of Norwalk, on ye north with ye wilderness with out ye bounds of ye Town of Fairfield on ye south wth ye former purchases, yt hath been already purchased by ye said Town of ye Indians, ye above sd land, and every part and parcell thereof, rivers, ponds Contained in it with all ye privileges and Appurtenances thereto belonging and appertaining, we have sold to ye Town of Fairfield and ye successors to enjoy and possess it as your own free land for ever and we ye Subscribers do assure ye said Town of Fairfield yt we are yt true



proprietors of all above sd Lands yt we have now sold, and do free and Exonerate ye sd Lands and every part yr of from any former sales, bargains, and Incumbrances wt ever either from us, or our \* . . . or any in our name. We do acknowledge yt we have full Information yt ye breadth of ye Town bounds of Fairfield is seven miles, and ye length twelve miles our above sd sale is as hath been above expressed att ye least to ye end of twelve miles, and in breadth seven miles. It is also to be noted yt ye Lands formerly granted to ye Indians for yr livelihood are not included in ye above sd acknowledgedment and grant.

In witness whereof ye Indians have hereunto set their hands this 19th of January 1670.

Crecro & James do fully Consent and agree to ye promises as their act.

With this caution yt they have given to Nathaniel Seeley a small tract of Land in Aspetuck Neck which for ye parts ye do not include in ye above sd deed.

Signed and delivered In ye presence and witness of us.

George Squire, Junr.

Jno Squire

Dissatisfaction with individual "dividends" of land popped up every now and then and new adjustments were necessary. Lands were returned from time to time and new allocations made. At one time Sergeant John Banks, Sergeant Nathaniel Seeley and Cornelius Hull were appointed a committee to lay out these new lots.

A penny farthing was levied upon all estates for the colony expenses, to be paid 1/3 each of peas, Indian corn and wheat.

On August 6, 1673 a sloop arrived in Fairfield with eleven Englishmen aboard who claimed that they had taken the sloop from the Dutch. Two days later two men came from Stamford and had four seamen with them whom they said had escaped from the Dutch fleet. On August 7, preparations for an invasion against the colonies by the Dutch were initiated by the planters. Fairfield County was to raise 120 dragoons. Officers listed were:

Mr. Thomas Fitch—Captain

Mr. Jehu Burr—Lieutenant

Mr. Mathew Sherwood—Ensign

Captain Nathan Gold was chosen Major for the County of Fairfield—"Thirty-eight being Fairfield's proportion."

In November 1673 Major Nathan Gold reported at the General Assembly in Hartford that Fairfield had received news by post from Rye that five vessels had passed by Rye and were heading westward, whereupon war was immediately proclaimed against the Dutch. Pike heads

were once again ordered for the use of the trained bands and "seven men shall watch in a night". In February 1674 "Esbone Wakeman is also impowered to lay out the said provisions in procuring powder and lead for the supply of the magazine of the Towne, he is ordered to make it his care to buy it as reasonable as he can procure it and as soon as the rest of the parcels are laid out the said Esbone is to demand the pay of them."

Also

The Town empowers Esbone Wakeman as the Town's Agent to receive what is due the Towne from any person whatever that the Towne sold Land to the last summer and in case of non payment to pursue and make use of the Law to full effect: for the gathering in what is due: to the Towne by virtue of the said sales: and upon receipt acquittance to give: and what he receives he is to lay out the pay (for the supply of the Magazine) in powder and lead or either of them: and in case he can't lay out the pay in this Towne for the said powder & lead: he is impowered to send to an Agent in the Bay for the procuring of it: & transporting of it for Fairfield the Towne is to satisfy all just charges and run all adventures and what the said Esbone shall lawfully do in the premises the Townsmen engageth the Towne of Fairfield not exceeding eight pounds per barrel; the pork at Fairfield to be delivered at as good a price as he can procure for it."

The Townsmen impower Esbone Wakeman to send ye flax it now remains in ye Towne Treasury to Boston per some convenient opportunity upon ye Towne's acc't and consign it to James ——— to be sold to procure eight penny nails to be sent up per ye first opportunity, for ye Towne's use.

That was a hard winter for Fairfield with the possibility of an invasion, and the preparation of an army to march against the Dutch seemed ever present. There was need for constant vigilance. However, as it worked out the Indians caused the settlers more real trouble that winter than did the Dutch and as Spring arrived a treaty was signed between England & Holland and peace restored.

On March 31, 1674 it was voted that the Towne Rate was "to be paid ten days after this date in provisions at current price or in flax at 10 pence per pound . . .". The next year the Towne Rate was to be paid in "wheat, peas, Indian Corn or flax at 9 pence per pound with any or all of the said specie of pay payable to the rate, the above said rate is to be paid at or before the first of April next such as are delinquent in payment by the time prefixt, the marshall is forthwith to levy it by distress."

Other votes showed that Thomas Bennett was



to beat the drum for the meeting ensuing and in payment received the pasture of the Burying Hill and 5 shillings.

And "The Towne appoints Robert Rumsie to oversee the boys on the Sabbath in the gallery that they carry it orderly."

It was that year when a Post was established by the General Court in Hartford and in October 1674 some new laws were passed to expedite the mail service. A postman was sent out the first Monday of each month to carry small parcels and letters.

The rates are included here. A fine was imposed upon anyone who detained the postman without good cause.

#### ESTABLISHING A POST

(The General Court held in Hartford Oct. 8, 1674)

This Court being made sensible of the great damage that might accrue to the publike, by a liberty of boldness which some persons may take to themselves (when employed by order of authority for the conveyance of letters, post and other important occasions of this colony) by profuse and extravagant spending at the ordinaries and other places on the road upon the countries and other places on the road upon the countries account, and also by great delays on journeys, were pre-judicial to the colony, which willing to prevent, do therefore order that the allowance for those persons (who shall be employed on such services) for their wages and expenses of themselves and horses, shall be as followeth, from the first of May to the middle of October:—

From Rye to Hartford, the horse hire twelve shillings, the man and expenses twenty, all, is one pound twelve shillings.

From Greenwich to Hartford, the horse hire ten shillings sixpence, the man and expenses seventeen shillings, all, one pound seven shillings and sixpence.

From Stamford to Hartford, the horse hire ten shillings, the man and expenses, sixteen shillings, all, is one pound seven shillings.

From Norwalk to Hartford, the horse hire nine shillings, the man and expenses fifteen, all, is one pound four shillings.

From Fairfield to Hartford, the horse hire eight shillings, the man and expenses, thirteen shillings sixpence, all, is one pound one shilling and sixpence.

From Stratford to Hartford, the horse hire seven shillings, the man and expenses twelve shillings, all, is nineteen shillings.

From Milford to Hartford, horse hire six shillings, the man and expenses, ten shillings, all is sixteen shillings.

From New Haven to Hartford, the horse hire five shillings, the man and expenses eight shillings sixpence, all is thirteen shillings sixpence.

From Wallingford to Hartford, the horse hire four shillings, the man and expenses six shillings, all, is ten shillings.

From Branford to Hartford, the horse hire five shillings, the man and expenses, eight shillings, all, is thirteen shillings.

From Guilford to Hartford, the horse hire five shillings, the man and expenses eight shillings, all is thirteen shillings.

From Kenilworth to Hartford, the horse hire five shillings, the man and expenses eight shillings sixpence, all is thirteen and sixpence.

From Saybrook to Hartford, the horse hire five shillings, the man and expenses eight shillings sixpence, all is thirteen shillings and sixpence.

From Lyme to Hartford, the horse hire five shillings, the man and expenses eight shillings sixpence, all is thirteen shillings sixpence.

From New London to Hartford, the horse hire eight shillings, the man and expenses eleven shillings, all, is nineteen shillings.

From Stonington to Hartford, the horse hire nine shillings, the man and expenses thirteen shillings sixpence, all, is one pound two shillings sixpence.

From Norwich to Hartford, the horse hire six shillings, the man and expenses eight shillings, all is fourteen shillings.

From Haddam to Hartford, the horse hire four shillings, the man and expenses six shillings, all is ten shillings.

From Middletown to Hartford, the horse hire two shillings, the man and expenses four and sixpence, all, is six shillings sixpence.

From Wethersfield to Hartford, the horse hire sixpence, the man and expenses one shilling, all is one shilling sixpence.

From Windsor to Hartford, the horse hire one shilling, the man and expenses one shilling sixpence, all, is two shillings sixpence.

From Farmington to Hartford, the horse hire one shilling sixpence, the man and expenses two shillings sixpence, all is four shillings.

From Simsbury to Hartford, the horse hire one shilling sixpence, the man and expenses two shillings sixpence, all is four shillings.

From Windsor to Springfield, the horse hire three shillings, the man and expenses four shillings sixpence, all, is seven shillings sixpence.

And from the middle of October to the last of April, to be eight pence more than the above for every night they lay out, for oats to the horses, wherein great care is to be had by the ordinary keepers, that hired horses are not deprived of their allowance.

Also the difference in the above said sums is to be the stated wages from Towne to Towne, if they go not to Hartford, and the like proportion by the mile, to those who shall be employed in this colony where their wages is not stated. It is further ordered, that all Posts, their Ferridg shall be kept on the country account, and that the ordinary keepers in the plantations shall provide suitable accomodations for men and horses whose allowance for the men by the meal shall be sixpence, and for the horse at grass, four pence a night, and oats four pence the half peck and for hay the night, four pence.

It is also ordered, that whosoever upon these terms shall unnecessarily stop, or detain his journey, forth or back, shall be necessarily stopped or detained by authority or other just occasion, such person or persons shall have penalty, or receive recom-



pence extraordinarily as the authority who sent them shall judge right to be abated or augmented in his wages.

In 1687 John Perry was appointed postman between Boston, Fairfield and Stamford, to carry the mail once each month in the winter and every three weeks in the summer or more often if it was required. His return was eagerly awaited each time for as he distributed the mail all gathered around him to hear the latest news. When he was supplied with a fresh horse he would be off again.

Every planter had a stake in the community and it was made very sure that this responsibility was realized. On June 21, 1677 it was voted that: "The Towne orders that whoever shall not personally appear to be the time appointed to every future Towne meeting: except they can render a satisfying reason to the contrary to the satisfaction of the Townsmen: or shall depart from the meeting without leave: til the meeting be broken up: shall for his fault therein be fined six pence a piece to be annexed to their Towne rates:—The Towne hath chosen George Squire moderator for the present meeting and who speaks disorderly is to be fined 3 pence for each delinquency.

These were still anxious days and the fear of war continued among the villagers. The Town Meeting Minutes show that Richard Hubbell was authorized to furnish 800 weight of lead within three months for use of them at the Town's Magazine and "Receive for ye Towne use what is due from any for such for powder and lead bullets and matches they borrowed out of the Towne Magazine and upon ye default of such specie to pay ye value thereof in wheat or peas."

And later

The Towne orders that the fortifications about a considerable part of the Towne concluded by the Committee formerly chose for that purpose shall be forthwith made and erected by all the Inhabitants of the Towne with all their Teams. All male persons from 10 years old to seventy, the mayor and the minister excepted: and there shall be satisfaction to each Inhabitant given by the Towne Rate. If any Inhabitant of the Towne if they sustaine loss of their houses by the enemy what is equitable to be allowed by the whole towards their reparation: is referred to two indifferent men chosen by each party: the losers, those that have not sustained loss of their houses to award: and what they award is to be performed by the whole: It's also provided that all those that are without fortification in this day of danger shall have free liberty of the use of the houses and lands contained within said fortification with the Proprietors for the preservation of the per-

sons and estates provided they come in and cannot make use of their lands abroad without eminent danger.

And

"The West end of Towne have liberty to cross the highways with fortifying fence provided they leave sufficient carteways through the fences in each highway."

The fear of the Indians became a reality when following the great trouble with Philip in Massachusetts it was rumored that all of the seashore towns were to be attacked one by one on moonlight nights. Sixty troopers were ordered to be raised in each County and Josiah Harvey of Fairfield, son-in-law of Major Gold was to be appointed surgeon and Nathan Seeley was made a lieutenant—"these to go to the scene of difficulty".

This early army was badly disabled and new recruits in the capacity of privates, surgeons, gunsmiths, and blacksmiths were ordered to be sent from Fairfield to join the forces stationed in New London. Supplies too were sent regularly. The rage of the Indians continued along the eastern colonies. The Indians about Fairfield (the military center of the county) apparently did not appear too hostile.

The soldiers from Fairfield and the seaside were ordered to furnish supplies for the army at the rate of "about five pounds of cheese & meat & fifteen pounds of bread to a man." They were to take as many cutlasses as they could. By this time the sons of almost every leading family were in the regular army or one of the volunteers. However at length this war too was brought to a close by the killing of Philip and his men, when another Indian betrayed their place of rest.

The troops and volunteers of Connecticut were now disbanded but each county kept a military force ready for service, in the event of any sudden new emergency—"Extent of the Towne watch shall westward include the mill and all the Inhabitants eastward and eastward to Daniel Sullivants & they included and the Inhabitants westward. The two seats for the guard is to be only for the guard and the officer of the guard hath power to remove the intruders."

Fairfield's position in the Colony continued to be an enviable one. John Banks of Fairfield was a member of the Committee which audited the colonial treasurer's account and a member of the committee to settle the bounds between Norwalk and Stamford. Jehu Burr was also appointed to administer the oath of a commissioner to



the other commissioners of the county; Jehu Burr and Richard Hubbell were elected deputies and William Hill and Jehu Burr commissioners from Fairfield. Major Gold had been elected an Assistant. The townsmen of Fairfield enjoyed a great deal of prestige among the men of the colony.

1679 proved to be a hard year for all as a sickness fell upon the town and seventy persons died within three months, and a severe blight fell upon the crops. The Indians still were troublesome as all of those in the west had joined with the Mohawks in plotting against the English. Each plantation was to procure one or two large pieces of artillery and training days were ordered. It was voted to lend the Military Company of the Town thirty-seven shillings towards payment of their colors and that the Town would pay one half of the drummer's fee (to call them to meetings) and the Military the other half. A heavy fine was imposed upon the guards at meeting houses for neglecting their duty.

The Magistrates of Fairfield hastened to make sure that their lands were secure and on October 6, 1680, assembled all of the Fairfield sachems or their descendants and had them sign and witness a new deed of the sale of their lands to the people of Fairfield. This included all lands within the deeds of 1656, 1661 and 1670 and reassured the Indians of their reservations at Sasco, Pequonnock, Uncoway, Old Indian Field, Wolves Pit Plain and Aspetuck. Buying from the Indians continued over the years.

On April 4, 1681, the Towne Meeting voted "The Towne grants unto the Inhabitants of the Towne Liberty to build a stone wall 20 or 24 or 5 rods square, four foot thick at the bottom, 12 foot high: on the Meeting House Green for a fort with sufficient flankers and gates for that end: provided it be either completed for that end within 3 years after this date"—in other words, a stone fort. It was also voted that—"a small piece of land upon the green be granted for building of a prison with a dwelling house thereon,—also a garden plot and a yard plot to be a part of the prison property."

Some were against laying out the Green in this manner and thus registered their protest. Those who were opposed were:—"The following make a protest against the laying out of the Green according to this mode: John Wheeler, Isaac Hall, John Jackson, Joseph Jackson, Samuel Jackson, Daniel Sullivan, Samuel Treadwell,

William ———, John Barlow, James Bennett, Ezekial Sanford." Eight years later—1689 a stockade was planned to encircle the Meeting House, the schoolhouse and the minister's house.

The list of taxpayers had increased considerably by 1681 and those included were:

A List of the Inhabitants proportions of Lands in the Commons granted to them in the year and is now Recorded December 1681.

Estates	Acres	Estates	Acres
Widow Wheeler .....	706	Robert Rumsie .....	458
*goodm Hals farme ..	701	John Tomkins .....	233
Joseph Wheply .....	263	Samuel Ward .....	452
John Odell .....	467	Richard Ogden .....	745
Samuell Tredwell ....	245	Joseph Lockwood ....	681
Isaac Wheeler .....	635	Daniel Frost .....	779
James Bennett .....	465	John Green .....	675
Nathan Sherwood ....	412	Robert Beachem .....	584
Richard Hubble .....	971	William Ward .....	644
Henry Jackson .....	946	Daniell Burr .....	321
Mihil Try .....	647	Moses Dimon .....	292
Ezekil Sandford .....	428	Thomas Wilson .....	375
Roger Knapp .....	486	Steven Sherwood ....	445
Thomas Morehouse ..	412	Mr. Harvey .....	466
Daniel Sillevant .....	—	Widow Bulkley .....	477
Thomas Oliver .....	303	John Bulkley .....	249
Nathaniel Seeley senr	852	Thomas Staples .....	1128
William Odell snr ....	362	Edward Adams .....	715
Samuell Morehouse ..	816	John Grumman .....	620
Ensign Robt. Turney	608	Robert Meeker .....	387
Thomas Bennett .....	459	Mrs. Jones .....	184
John Tomson .....	203	Jacob Gray .....	370
Sgt. George Squire ..	855	Mr. Jehu Burr .....	812
Joseph Middlebrook		John Banks .....	795
senr .....	757	Ezbon Wakeman .....	287
Thomas Jones .....	286	Tho. Skidmore .....	433
William Hill .....	694	Steven Hedges .....	305
Major Nathan Gold..	1500	Cornelius Hull .....	792
Sarah Wilson .....	506	Mr. John Burr .....	863
Benjamin Turney ....	260	Obadiah Gilbert .....	603
Nathaniel Burr .....	626	William Odell senr ..	362
Joshua Jennings .....	825	Ensign Robt. Turney	608
Henry Rowland .....	943	John Tomson .....	203
Joshua Knowles .....	582	Joseph Middlebrook	
John Cable senr .....	449	senr. ....	757
Richard Osborn .....	825	William Hill .....	694
Francis Bradley .....	639	Sarah Wilson .....	506
Thomas Sherwood ....	682	Nathaniel Burr .....	626
Humphrey Hide .....	569	Nathaniel Finch .....	237
John Hide .....	398	Samuel Godwin .....	121
Peter Coley .....	387	Nathaniel Perry .....	191
Peter Clapham .....	604	John Bennett .....	254
John Knowles .....	553	John Smith .....	254
John Sturgis .....	774	Simon Couch .....	578
John Cable Junr. ....	501	Patchin .....	195
Daniel Lockwood ....	479	John Wheeler .....	1004
James Beers .....	645	Henrisk .....	203
Samuel Drake .....	260	Richard Lyon .....	800
John Applegate .....	132	Mr. Wakeman .....	641
Samll Smith .....	450	George Squire junr ..	132
John Barlow senr ....	391	Parsonage .....	650

\*Goodman



Estates	Acres	Estates	Acres
John Barlow junr ....	398	Phebe and	
Eluzer Smith .....	298	Deborah Barlow ..	434
School .....	325	Mr. Pell .....	292
Isaac Sherwood .....	097	Thomas Lyon .....	254
John Andrews .....	296	Thomas Shervington	305

In 1683 the General Assembly ordered that every town should erect a sign post in the center of town. The Fairfield sign post was placed upon the Green directly opposite the Meeting House and on it were posted proclamations, sales of houses and lands, meeting announcements, etc. A sign post still stands there today and warnings of meetings, registration dates for dogs, voters, etc, etc are all shown here at especially designated times. 30 December, 1693—

that it shall be sufficient warning for ye same to set upon a post a paper at ye East Bridge declaring ye time of such meeting and to be set up four days before said meeting and a paper of ye same at ye meeting house . . . or about Samuel Smiths upon a post there all fair to be seen but in case of any sudden or immediate occasion that will not allow four days, then ye townsmen for ye time being to cause it to be warned as usually they have been.

Along in this same manner of announcement the Town Meeting would vote that land or perhaps stray animals would be sold at an “outcry next training day”—an auction at the signpost.

The early years were never easy, and 1682 marked another one where a “malignant fever” swept away the lives of many of those within the borders of Fairfield. This same year in the months of June, July & August a drought caused extensive loss of corn and grass. The wild animals too were annoying them for it was voted that “every Englishman or men shall receive 20 shillings per head of every bear killed within the next two weeks.” Indians were to receive 10 shillings per head—all to be paid out of the Towne Treasury.

Provisions were used more and more as payment for almost anything. One half might be paid in pork while the other half could be paid in wheat or “The Towne order that to any the Towne is indebted to: the Treasurer shall pay him only 1/3 part in wheat & they grant that the shepherd shall have towards their wages 1/3 in wheat.”

And “The Towne rate shall be paid in the same specie as the Sheep Money is to be paid in, that is 1/3 wheat and the other 2/3 in provision pay—oats excepted.”

In 1683 the Towne Rate was set at 1/3 wheat

and 2/3 pork or Indian Corn. Another year it was payable in flax and barley. There were 184 taxable persons in Fairfield now with valued estates of £10,302.

In 1685 the long disputed line between Fairfield and Norwalk was set to be run once again and the Fairfield Patent became a reality. King James assured the Fairfield planters that he would care and protect them in exchange for their loyalty.

## FAIRFIELD PATENT

The General Court of Connecticut have formerly granted to the proprietors of the inhabitants of the Town of Fairfield, all those lands both meadow & upland within these abutments upon the sea towards the south about seven miles in breadth, & in length from the sea into the wilderness twelve miles, & upon Stratford bounds on the east, & the wilderness north, & in Norwalk bounds on the west, only a parcel of land between their bounds & Saugatuck river, that is likewise granted to the said Fairfield, provided, the said Saugatuck do not exceed two miles from the bounds of the said Fairfield, the said lands having been by purchase or otherwise lawfully obtained of the Indian native proprietors; & whereas the proprietors, the foresaid inhabitants of Fairfield, in the colony of Connecticut, have made application to the Governor & company of the said colony of Connecticut, assembled in court, May 25, 1685, that they may have a patent for confirmation of the aforesaid land, so purchased & granted to them, an aforesaid, & which they have, stood, seized, & quietly possessed of for many years, last past, without interruption. Now for a more full confirmation of the aforesaid tract of land, as it is butted & bounded as aforesaid unto the present proprietors of the said Township of Fairfield in the possession & enjoyment of the premises, know ye that the said Governor & company assembled in General Court according to the commission granted to us by his Majesty in our charter, have given, granted, & by these presents do give, grant, ratify & confirm unto Major Nathan Gold, Mr. Samuel Wakeman, Mr. Jehu Burr, Mr. John Burr, Mr. Thomas Staples, Mr. John Green, Mr. Joseph Lockwood, Mr. John Wheeler, Mr. Richard Hubbel, Mr. George Squire, & Mr. Isaac Wheeler, & the rest of the present proprietors of the Township of Fairfield, their heirs, successors & assigns forever, according to the tenor of East Greenwich in Kent in free & common socage & not in capitte, nor by Knights’ service, they to make improvements of the same, as they are capable according to the custom of the country, yielding, rendering, & paying therefore to the Sovereign Lord, the King his heirs & successors, his due, according to charter.

In witness whereof we have caused the seal of the colony to be hereunto affixed this 26 of May, 1685, in the first year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord, James the Second of England, Scotland, & Ireland, King, defender of the faith, etc.



By the order of the General Court of Connecticut.

Signed,

Robert Treat, Gov.

John Allen, Sec.<sup>1</sup>

During that same year a "Bell for the Towne" was voted. It was to be hung in the turret of the Meeting House and the turret was to be floored. The town borrowed money from Samuel Wilson and from Daniel Burr to pay for the bell and they in turn received special land privileges. For more than 100 years this bell was rung regularly twice each day, once at noon and again at 9 in the evening (except Saturday nights) at which time the law required all to be at home. It was also rung on the Sabbath and for lectures.

As the years continued one has ever before him the feeling of law and order and organization. At Town Meeting it was voted "the Towne this day ordereth ye Constables of ye town upon Sabbath days in time of exercises take notes who they are lying or sleeping or playing and inform those with whom they are concerned yt they may reform from such evil practices".

Also at another meeting—

Whereas there is a report that Evan Owen intends to come again to this town with his family to settle here, the Towne absolutely prohibits the entertainment of him and his family upon sufficient reasons and therefore do order that no inhabitant shall entertain him or his family 24 hours without special leave from the Townsmen: . . . the Towne orders that such as shall so entertain him or them, they shall pay a fine for every 24 hours ensuing the first 24 hours he or they shall pay a fine of 20 shillings per time to the Towne Treasury for every such offense.

And "the Towne doth not approve of Peter Clapham to sell any of his wood lands unto Edward Lacy".

Then on October 7, 1686, it was voted that every home owner must have—"a sufficient ladder to be made to reach to ye top of the house under ye penalty of two shillings per week"—for every week they defaulted in having said ladder.

No person could build a house or dig a cellar without permission.

"The Townsmen of Fairfield this 21 day of January 1690 being informed of a woman, a stranger at Daniel Frost's, the townsmen do order said Daniel Frost to convey her to her

Uncle Bushey at New Haven & if she be sent back again there to be sent westward from where she came to clear ye Town of her."

Liberty was given by vote to Obadiah Banks to let Mr. Livingston be in his house for 3 months.

No peas were to be sowed within town for 3 years so that all oats and barley could be made clear of peas.

It was voted that all incumbrances such as hog pens, gardens, and otherwise were to be removed from Town streets and from the Common.

A gallery was voted for the Meeting house "for ye Maids to set".

Many of these things may seem strange to us today, but thinking through them they are not too far away. This is where our standards had their beginnings. The foundations were made firm and strong and through the years a solid way of living has developed our democracy.

They planned where their lands should be bounded and how they should be bounded. No one went off on his own but instead all tried to work together and do what was best for the group.

#### *Town Meeting — 5th March 1693/4*

Whereas the town's Committee for regulating the disorders done in the highways and severing the Town's land from particular persons' properties they have ordered that in Case any person that have fenced in any Towne land and shall refuse or neglect to remove the same after warning such person shall pay a fine of twenty shillings per week for every such fence or fences shall stand unremoved after warning as in the order of the Committee may more fully appear the Towne does this day approve their said orders only they see cause to abate the fine of twenty shillings as aforesaid and see cause to lay a fine of ten shillings per week upon such as shall be defective as aforesaid upon the request of John Sturges Senr: to the Towne to exchange a small parcel of land with him the Towne appoints Left: Hull and Sargt: Osborn to take a view of what land Goodman Sturges would exchange with the Towne and Make report thereof to the Towne.

John Sturges Junr: in Towne meeting Relinquishes his right and privilege granted him in Sasco Stream by the Towne to set up a saw mill there and the Towne grants liberty unto Thomas Morehouse senr and Samuel Couch to set up a saw mill on sd River upon the same Condition that was to sd John Sturges only they are to erect it in one year and a half after the date hereof.

The Towne appoints Left: Hull and Jonathan Sturges to go and take a view of a place where Benjamin Rumsey shall direct them for to set down the sea fence in Sasco field near Daniel Frost's lot to see yt it may be convenient to the Towne and Make return there of.

<sup>1</sup> Col. Rec. Deeds, Patents, etc. State Archives, Vol. II. The name of the governor and secretary were first subscribed to the patents of 1685, but on the 30th of May, 1687, this mode of signing was changed, by adding to the Secretary's subscription, "per order of the Governor & Company of Connecticut;" and by order of the court, all town patents were re-signed.—Col. Rec. Conn., III., Note, p. 177. (1.)



Just about this time the East farmers were becoming restless and desired a degree of independence. They were granted liberty to have their own Pound. In 1687, one and a half acres in East Farms was set aside for any inhabitants of Fairfield to bury their dead. Rules were established for the care of sheep in that section of town too.

*Town Meeting — Sept. 8, 1690*

We whose names are hereto underneath subscribed being appointed by ye townsmen of Fairfield according to ye laws in yt Case provided respecting ordering ye sheep belonging to ye proprietors of ye sheep in sd towne and whereas or neighbors on ye east side of Uncoway river desire to have a flock of sheep kept there which we consent unto on these after mentioned Considerations: 1. that sd neighbors provide a faithful shepherd for yt work and he attend ye same—2. that Care be taken yt a person or more be appointed to let sd sheep or flock in such way & manner as may be as near as they can for ye good and safety of sd flock and ye benefit of ye proprietors of sd sheep so far as will stand with ye safety of ye sheep there—3. that a fair account be kept yt ye owners of ye sheep may have their just parts of ye Clear produce of ye sd flock dung when all Charge is first paid yt shall be found necessary about sd flock and Rams.

4. that care be taken yt a suitable number of rams be raised & kept from sd flock as the law requireth and 5. that sd flock be kept on sd east side of sd Uncoway river and in case sd neighbors shall see cause so to do on sd Considerations it is well: but if not there is care taken for the keeping of all ye sheep pertaining to sd towne already by us . . .

The Landowners on the East also requested to be released from paying an allotment to the minister and to the school and asked for land to have their own minister and school. This was voted down. However, they took their desires to the General Assembly. Lieutenant James Bennett of Pequonnock presented a petition signed by 46 persons of East Farms. A committee from Fairfield was sent to defend the town's disapproval.

*Town Meeting — April 27th, 1691*

At a general meeting of ye neighborhood there they desired Capt. Mathew Sherwood and James Bennett senr to Inform ye towne of Fairfield yt they intend to send a man or men to represent their Case and present the petition to this next general Court in order to being released from paying to ye town of Fairfield ministry and school this we are ready to give oath to if called as witness our hands ye day and date above sd this is a true Copy of a paper presented to be read in a town meeting and to be forthwith recorded: it was recorded this 11th of May 1691 by me Nathan Gold recorder.

Samuel Gregory  
Richard Hubbell juner

We the inhabitants of Pequonnock being warned unto a town meeting held at Fairfield and understanding that one end for which it was warned is to hire a school master in sd towne of Fairfield we ye sd Inhabitants of Pequonnock at a general meeting there have thought meet to declare this our protest against: and dislike of such a thing and yt for many reasons Inducing hearunto and instead of many yt might be mentioned: let these or two satisfy: because ye law it hath enjoined us to a half year only and as to a grammar school totally freed us we more over have already hired a school among ourselves for ye Instruction of our children which is not able to come to any school yt is hired in Fairfield we therefore ye Inhabitants of Pequonnock do desire yt this our protest may be entered and Recorded that this is our protest against hiring a school in ye town of Fairfield we do set to our hands May ye 6, 1691.

Matthew Sherwood junr.	Ephraim Wheeler
Izhak Wheeler senr.	Samll Hall
Samll Gregory	Samll Tredwell
Joseph Seeley	Mathew Sherwood senr.
Richard Hubell junr.	James Bennett senr.
Moses Jackson senr.	James Bennett junr.
John Odell junr.	Richard Hubell, senr.
Timothy Wheeler	Thomas Morehouse senr.

This above is a True Copy of its original presented in a town meeting held in Fairfield the 7th of May 1691 to be read there and also to be recorded and was recorded this 11th of May 1691 by me Nathan Gold Recorder.

The Petition for the separation of Pequonnock was denied but the General Assembly in Hartford did give permission for the people of Pequonnock to have their own minister on October 3, 1691. Three acres were set aside for Mr. Chauncey, the new minister. They still had to pay the Towne Rate however. Highways were planned and laid out in that area. They were also given a bull. A small church edifice was soon erected on Meeting House Hill. The General Court had recommended that the people of Fairfield and Pequonnock meet and discuss their differences.

In 1693—"This Towne this day votes that a sign post shall be set up at East Farms near David Sherman's and ye warning for ye Towne Meetings agreed upon to be set upon ye said post". This was another concession granted to the people of the East Farms.

In setting up a guard for the Town, East Farms was also given special attention.

1. Two persons watch every night in *East Farms* walking and standing on hill next to Dickerson's House.

2. Four persons watch every night in body of the town—walking & standing on east side of meeting house—Caleb Jennings' Hill.



3. Two attend to Maxumux and Compo every night beyond the house of John Sturges Sr. between Samuel Smith's barn and the corner of Robert Rumsey's home lot on the Mill Plain walking and standing in ye main street between Thomas Shervington's corner and the said Sturges.

At length permission was given by the General Court to the East Farms or Paquanage (Pequonnock) to carry on their own affairs, it to be called Fairfield Village from then on. For many years it was called the East Parish. In 1697 Captain Mathew Sherwood was chosen Commissioner for Fairfield Village and a military company was formed there. In 1699 the following laws were granted for the benefit of Fairfield Village:

Impr, To make choice annually of two or three persons, who shall have power to order meetings of the society to order their minister's rate, & what concerns may be needful about their meeting house.

2. To choose collectors of the rates, & that they shall have full power by virtue of a writ from lawful authority, upon non payment to distrain.

3. To choose a constable, whose power shall reach from the west side of Pequonnock River unto the uttermost bounds of the village westward, according to the limitations granted to their commission of 11 officers, the village consisting partly of Fairfield & partly of Stratford.

4. That they shall have libertye to choose annually a society recorder, to be sworn to that work.

In 1701 the western boundary of Fairfield Village was fixed and the name changed to Stratfield. It was given this name from being formed from the east parish of Fairfield and of the west parish of Stratford. In 1702 Fairfield and Stratford were both ordered to pay a lawful portion out of the annual school tax to the school in Stratfield.

It was during that period that the horrors of witchcraft once again came to Fairfield. Mary Staples, Mary Harvey and Hannah Harvey were presented to the Grand Jury upon the suspicion of using witchcraft but they were acquitted by proclamation. Mary Staples was the same Mrs. Staples who had forty years before been tried after being accused of being a witch. A Court of Oyer and Terminer was held when Mercy Disbrow of Compo was on trial. The Court could not agree upon a verdict and they adjourned. On October 28, 1692, the Court reconvened, however Mr. Thomas Knowles, a Juror, had gone to New York and it was necessary to put someone else in his place in order to continue the trial. The case was assigned anew to the jury. Mem-

bers of the jury were from several parts of Fairfield County. The Jury found her guilty again. This time the Court approved the verdict and felt there was no need to change it and the Governor passed upon it. Samuel Willis, William Pitkin, and Nathaniel Stanley of Hartford, three of the assistants, sent down a reprieve. At the May 1693 session, the General Court gave their reasons for so doing, the main one being the substitution of a juror. Mercy Disbrow thus escaped with her life.

A more dramatic story reveals that the townspeople decided to try a scheme that had been used in Hartford, namely that of throwing those thought to be witches into a pond or a river with the idea that if they sank under the water they were guilty of the charge brought against them; while if they floated they were innocent. Mercy Disbrow was thrown into either Hyde's Pond or Edward's Pond on the Meeting House Green and having been bound hand and foot, four witnesses proclaimed she swam like a cork even though one tried to press her under the water.

Pirates too were frequenting the coastal areas about this time and the infamous Captain Kidd was thought to be one of the most dangerous and also one who came within the shores of Fairfield. It is said that he often had a rendezvous at Sherwood Island, or North Bridgeport, or at Black Rock and as a child I remember hearing that Captain Kidd had buried his treasure on Rosie's Road in Greenfield Hill. Rosie's Road being now Cross Highway, the part running between Congress Street and Redding Road. Although the area which was supposedly excavated again and again was largely usurped by the Merritt Parkway when the road was established some 25 years ago, I must confess that there have never been reports of anyone finding a chest of diamonds and rubies there!

The homes of these people at the close of the 17th century were small and meager in their furnishings. It is interesting to note of what a household's belongings would consist in 1695 and before. Here are lists taken from the Fairfield Probate Records of that time. These were not all taken from the same will but instead four or five inventories were reviewed to see the different *kinds* of things which they possessed.

His wearing apparel  
Arms and ammunition  
Book  
Curtains & Pillow  
Plate



Shoes  
 A rug  
 Womans apparel  
 Napkins  
 Towels  
 Pillow covers  
 Table linen  
 Five leather chairs  
 Five chairs and a chest  
 2 boxes  
 A case with 6 bottles  
 A pair of hand irons  
 A warming pan  
 A long table  
 A looking glass  
 A tramill and 2 prs. of fire tongs  
 A frying pan  
 2 old chests, a pot Iron & hooks  
 A table, 2 linen wheels & 4 cushions  
 \* \* \* \* \*  
 2 looking glasses  
 Pewter plates  
 3 pewter casons  
 Porringers  
 2 small casons & 9 spoons  
 A tankard, a salt cellar, a pewter cup  
 3 candlesticks  
 3 brass kettles  
 2 brass skillets  
 Earthenware  
 Flax  
 2 dozen tronchers & wooden ware  
 Glorious book (Bible)  
 2 glass bottles, a brush & 2 baskets, a gimlet, cross  
 cut saw

2 bags with wheat in them  
 A parcel of feathers  
 \* \* \* \* \*  
 Old iron and glass  
 Old cask  
 Part old cask & barrel of molasses  
 2 hives of bees  
 1 3-year-old heifer  
 3 swine  
 2 acres of land in Ye Old Field  
 2 acres of meadow  
 5¾ acres of land in Sasco Neck  
 1 parcel of land near Jonathan Sturges house  
 A long lot & Interest in Common  
 Compo land & Wolf Swamp  
 Hogs fat & 5 barrels of pork  
 2 lamps  
 \* \* \* \* \*  
 Silver  
 Gold ring  
 Land in the woods  
 Candle and tallow  
 A churn  
 A parcel of linen yarn  
 A parcel of woolen yarn  
 A parcel of tough yarn  
 Sugar  
 Old rag blanket  
 Coverlets & other bedding  
 A parcel of malt & hops  
 Bushel of corn

And thus we move to a new century.

## CHAPTER 4

### 1701-1724

**A**CTUALLY there is no need to break this period of years from the last section. Fairfield continued to prosper. Her fair fields had become fairer. The agriculture of the community became more and more flourishing and her harbor was the scene of a great deal of activity. Fairfield was listed as one of the eight lawful ports of the colony. Politically, the influence of this plantation, which had barely now known 60 years, was single in all of New England. Her sons had not only exercised great influence throughout every decision affecting the people of the entire colony, but they had also responded to every military need in the eastern colonies and in New York. Fairfield now was recognized.

Her influence continued when at the turn of the century Reverend Joseph Webb, then Minister of the Congregational Church, was chosen as one of ten leading citizens of Connecticut to establish a college for the colony. It seemed that Harvard was too great a distance away for the sons of our colony. About this same time, Peter Burr of Fairfield was chosen Speaker of the House of Representatives. Dougal MacKensey was given a grant of land at the extreme end of Sasco Hill. To old timers, this is known as Kensey's Point but to others, it is Sasco Beach.

The Maxumus farmers were given liberty to allow Thomas Nash the use of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres provided he serve the community as a smith. The next year they were given liberty to erect a schoolhouse on the Green. The Hill at Maxumux—known as Clapboard Hill and occupied as an Indian reservation—was purchased from the Indians for the use of the town. The farmers of Maxumux were given liberty to erect a Pound. As a matter of fact, they erected two—one at Compo and one at Bankside.

Just a short while later, the town meetings show that the Maxumux and Compo farmers asked to have their own minister and on October 8, 1712 a town meeting was held "distinct from ye East and West parishes". Town officers were

chosen to represent the East parish and another set to represent the West parish. Finally the East and West parishes were granted their own ministers for the winter months because of the great distances from the center of town. Land (on Clapboard Hill) had been set aside by the town for the first gospel minister who should settle in Maxumux—the bounds of the Greens Farms Parish having been set and accepted. A house was to be built on the land:

Two and forty foot in length, twenty foot wide, two stores high, with a cellar under one end, two chamber chimneys and to cover it with four and a half shingles.

A tax of sixpence on the pound was required of the West farmers (Maxumux) until the house was completely paid for. Reverend Daniel Chapman was the first minister at West Farms. Mr. Chapman's salary was £70 a year.

Petition presented to the General Assembly in Hartford:

May 1711

Capt. Samuel Couch of Fairfield, on the behalf of himself and the rest of the inhabitants of the Western Farms within the said town of Fairfield, now again moved to this Assembly, (as he did in October last,) for liberty to be granted to them to provide and settle an orthodox minister of the gospel amongst them, and to be freed from paying towards the maintenance of the minister of the said town of Fairfield; and Major Peter Burr, Capt. Joseph Wakeman, and Major John Burr of Fairfield, agents for that town, appeared now before this Assembly and presented the reasons of the inhabitants of the said town of Fairfield against granting such liberty and freedom to the said Western Farms:—Upon consideration of which, this Assembly do now grant liberty to said Western Farmers to call and settle an orthodox minister of the gospel amongst them; and do grant a release and freedom to them from paying rates and taxes for and towards the maintenance of the minister of the said town of Fairfield, for and during such time as they shall have such a minister in exercise amongst them; and that they shall be a distinct parish or society by and of themselves, within the said town, and within such bounds as shall hereafter be set and fixed for them, by the committee hereinafter named and appointed.



A little later John Blackman was to beat the drum on Clapboard Hill and sweep the Meeting House and have fifty shillings for so doing. The early people were called to Church by beating two thin strips of board together upon some high hill in every parish. This early practice gave rise to the name of Clapboard Hill. Drums took the place of clapboards some years later.

Then we see the West parish further taking its place with Mr. John Osborn confirmed as Captain, Jonathan Sturges Lieutenant and Mr. Samuel Barlow Ensign of the "west end train band" of Fairfield. Mr. Thomas Nash made Lieutenant and Mr. John Andrews Ensign of the "west parish train-band" in Greens Farms.

The possibility of War still hung over the heads of the Colonists in these early years of this new century. The Assembly met in Hartford in March 1704 and ordered that the towns were not to be broken up but instead were to be properly guarded. No male person, from sixteen years and upward, was to leave any of the towns under a penalty of ten pounds. The selectmen in every town in the colony were ordered to provide a sufficient number of knapsacks and hatchets, with strong belts for the men. For every sixth man in each train band, snow shoes were also to be provided, and the troops were to be held in readiness for both summer and winter. Civil and military officers were to care for the friendly Indians and these Indians were encouraged to enlist as volunteers. Ten pounds was offered to anyone who could present an unfriendly Indian. Drums were ordered to be beaten for raising volunteers.

In Fairfield a special tax was levied for laying in a stock of ammunition for "publicke use", and anyone who procured a stock of ammunition for himself alone was fined.

Captain John Wakeman, Lieutenant Joseph Wakeman and Samuel Squire were appointed officers of the train band for the eastern part of Fairfield while Captain John Osborn, Lieutenant John Barlow and Ensign Theophilus Hull were the leaders for the train band of the western section. The Freeman's list was to be made up by Peter Burr, Sergeant Richard Hubbell, and Lieutenant John Barlow.

In order to become a Freeman, the men had to be twenty-one years of age, of peaceable, orderly and good conversation, owning estates to the value of forty shillings, and upon taking the Freeman's oath would be allowed to vote. The value of the person's estate changed with the

years. At one point, 20 pounds was the prerequisite.

Mr. Peter Burr was also made a member of the Special Council of War which had been chosen because of the possibility of the French and their Indian allies descending upon the frontier towns. A severe penalty was inflicted upon those who sold any form of gun or ammunition to the Indians. In May 1709, Connecticut was ordered to send 360 men against the French in Canada:—Acadia and New Foundland. Sixty of these were to be Indians. Thirteen of the men were to be from the trained bands of Fairfield. Lieutenant John Wheeler of Stratfield was appointed to go with the group to Canada as physician and surgeon. Provisions necessary for the men for four months had to be provided. The men were to have:

1 lb. of bread a day (each man)  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. of porke (each man)  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  pt. of pease (each man)  
1 gill a day of rum  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  lb. of beef  
Indians to have 1 pint of corn a day.

They were to proceed by way of the lakes and attack Montreal. Colonel William Whiting was given command of the troops of Connecticut. About 90 Connecticut men were lost and many were sick and ordered home with the best care possible. The failure of this encounter was a great disappointment to all. It was hoped by the colonists that England would join them in their effort to take Canada from the French. A second attempt was made and this too was unsuccessful.

The train bands were required to send in a complete report each year in September to the Major of the regiment. This report had to include the number of its officers and men. Captain John Burr was chosen Major in the Connecticut forces. Mr. Samuel Couch was confirmed as Captain by the General Assembly, Mr. John Osborn Lieutenant and Mr. Benjamin Rumsey Ensign of the Greens Farms trained-band.

In 1722 Fairfield was supplied with one barrel of gun powder for the public service.

During that period the Church of England became a reality in Fairfield. Reverend Mr. Muirson of Westchester held services in a private home and several adults and children were baptized by Reverend Muirson. Many of the colonists had not really ever separated their thoughts from the Church of England and they welcomed the opportunity to worship in this manner once again.

This move was met with much opposition by the townspeople and when Mr. Muirson died suddenly, only occasional services were held afterward. In 1718, Dr. James Laborie, a surgeon in the Connecticut troops, removed himself from Stratford and settled in Fairfield. He gathered such persons as favored the Church of England in his home on the Sabbath and with them used the services of the Church. His work was soon halted by Lieutenant Governor Nathan Gold. However, about four years later, Rever-

end George Pigot arrived from England and as he resided in Stratford, he divided his time and energies between Fairfield and Stratford.

The Church of England's House of Worship was opened for the first time on Thanksgiving Day, November 10, 1726 and was named Trinity Church. This church was a wooden structure, was located in the vicinity of Roger Ludlowe High School on Unquowa Road — probably more northerly and perhaps to the east.



## CHAPTER 5

### 1725 - 1773

THAT year—1725, in the spring, the people of the northwestern part of the Towne banded together and petitioned the General Assembly meeting in Hartford to be set aside as a new parish. The mother Church in Fairfield was not pleased with this endeavor and sent representatives to the hearing to oppose the move. The memorial presented to the General Assembly by Thomas Hill and others was as follows:

TO THE HONORABLE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, sitting at Hartford the second Thursday of May, 1725. The humble prayer of the inhabitants of Fairfield North Village humbly sheweth, that there are about fifty families living north of Fairfield, at a considerable distance from the town, some five or six miles, & the nearest of them about two miles & a half or more, whose lists amount to £4,000, which inhabitants labor under great difficulties on account of their enjoyment of some of the precious means of grace, especially the proclaiming of the word of life, in the ordinary way & means God uses in the conversion & bringing home poor, lost & undone sinners. Not only ourselves are frequently obliged to be absent from divine worship, but our poor children are under a kind of necessity of perishing for lack of vision, both which are very troublesome to those who are inquiring what they shall do to be saved, & that are hungering & thirsting after Christ & salvation & righteousness in & through him. The distance of the way, especially in bad weather, utterly incapacitates many persons, old & young, to go to the house of God, which makes us willing rather to expend considerable of our earthly treasure in maintaining the public worship of God among ourselves than to lose our spiritual treasure & undo any of our poor, immortal souls, esteeming each of them better than a one thousand worlds.

Signed by Thomas Hill, John Bartram, David Williams, Benj. Gilbert, Benjamin Franklin, Thos. Turney, Daniel Adams, Elijah Crane, Ebenezer Hull, & sixty-two others.

However, undaunted the fifty-five families tried again later that year and on October 14, 1725, the Secretary of State signed the following order and the Northwest Parish of Fairfield received full parish privileges:

At a General Assembly holden at Hartford, in his Majesty's Colony of Connecticut, in New Eng-

land, on the 14th day of October in the 12th year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George, King of Great Britain, 1725, upon ye petition of Thomas Hill of Fairfield in behalf of himself and others of his neighbors living within ye bounds following: westerly by the west parish in said Fairfield; south-southwest by the rear of the building lots in Fairfield; easterly by the Mill River, so called; east-northeasterly by ye parish of Stratfield; north by the north bounds of Fairfield; first brought to this Assembly in May last and continued to this Assembly, desiring they may be made a parish:

"This Assembly after hearing ye reasons offered by Mr. Ebenezer Wakeman agent for the old parish in Fairfield why said Hill and neighbors should not have parish privileges granted them, as well as the arguments of said petitioners why they should be a parish; do hereby order and grant that said petitioners shall be a parish and are hereby enabled to set up the worship of God among themselves, and that the bounds above said shall be the bounds of said parish, and so be and remain until this Assembly shall order otherwise; and it is hereby enacted that said parish shall have and be allowed all the privileges and advantages as are by law allowed to other parishes in this government.

A true copy of Record;

Examined by Hoz Wyllys, Secretary.

In January a suitable tax was levied to pay the expenses of the new parish and two sign posts were ordered to be put in place to announce the parish meetings. One at the Meeting House, the second at Hulls Farms. Thomas Hill was also appointed Brander for the Northwest Parish and for the new parish's train band, Mr. Thomas Hill served as Captain, Mr. Moses Dimon, Jr. Lieutenant and Mr. Samuel Wakeman Ensign.

It was further put to a vote whether the Greenfield parish should have a pound at their own charge—and whether ye new pound now built shall be ye pound. It was voted in the affirmative and Captain Thomas Hill was chosen key keeper for said pound. Daniel Bradley was chosen keeper of the key another year.

Reverend John Goodsell was engaged as the minister of the new parish by a committee consisting of Dr. John Hide, George Hull, Benjamin Banks, Jehu Burr (a lawyer) and Peter Burr.



Reverend Goodsell, who was 19 years of age, and a graduate of Yale College Class of 1724 had come from Stratford.

Church affairs seemed to take most of the Town's interest of this period and a controversy throughout the colony arose between the followers of the Established Church and the Separatists.

The members of the Church of England petitioned the General Assembly to be freed from paying taxes for the maintenance of the Established Church of the Colony—the Congregational Church. This was granted to those who lived near the minister.

Many sought refuge from ecclesiastical taxes through this law. There were sixty-five communicants of the Church of England in Fairfield at this time.

It is a fact worth recording that the first meeting of the Old Congregational Parish, the Prime Ancient Society of Fairfield, distinct from town meeting, was held, according to the record, on December 19, 1727.

In 1732, West Parish and Greenfield Parish were ordered to put both of their lists together and divide the results "equally to ye support of their minister". It was also voted to sell the Parsonage Lands and divide the money among the parishes.

On July 27, 1738 permission was granted to the members of the Church of England to erect a house of public worship on the highway near the old field gate (Oldfield Road and Old Post Road of today).

The parishioners of the Congregational Church continued their disagreements with the members of the Church of England.

Redding Parish was authorized in 1729 and here is the resolution which made it possible:

May 1729

Upon the memorial of John Read, in behalf of himself and the rest of the inhabitants of Lone Town, Chestnut Ridge, and the peculiar between Fairfield and Danbury, showing to this Assembly the great difficulty they labour under in attending on the publick worship of God, and the forwardness of the town of Fairfield to encourage them to set up the publick worship of God among themselves by conceding that two miles of the rear end of their long lots be added to them, in order to the making them a parish; and praying this Assembly that they may be allowed to be a society for the worship of God, with the privileges usually granted to such societies or parishes, and that said society or parish may comprise those lands that lie encircled betwixt the townships of Fairfield, Danbury, Newtown and Ridgefield, together with the aforesaid two miles of

Fairfield long lots; and that they may have remitted to them their country rate during the pleasure of this Assembly; and that all the lands aforesaid may be taxed by the order of said Assembly; and that said parish be annexed to Fairfield, and that it be named Redding:

"This Assembly grants that the said Lone Town, Chestnut Ridge and the peculiar thereof, be a society or parish by themselves, and to have all the privileges usually granted to societies or parishes, and that said society or parish shall comprise all those lands that lie encircled betwixt the townships of Fairfield, Danbury, Newtown and Ridgefield, together with two miles of the rear end of Fairfield long lots. Furthermore, this Assembly doth remit to them their country rate for four years, excluding those only who decline to join with them for what is prayed for, of being released of country tax; and that all the laid out unimproved lands within the limits of said parish be taxed at six shillings a hundred acres per year for four years, and that the money raised thereby be improved for the defraying the ministerial charges among them in that place; and that said parish be named Redding.

It wasn't long before a House of Worship was a reality and it was voted to build a pound in the Redding Parish at "their own charge". The pound was to be erected near "John Hull's dwelling,—John Bull to be the key keeper." Sergeant John Reed was commissioned by the General Assembly Captain, Stephen Burr, Lieutenant and Samuel Sanford Ensign "for the train band of Redding in the Town of Fairfield, and later—

Daniel Meeker of Redding and John Burr of West Parish were chosen Grand Jurymen, Ephrim Sanford shall be key keeper for ye pound in Redding.

and

William Hill of Redding to be the tything man.

One should also mention New Fairfield, north of Danbury, for that too is a parish which had sprung from the old Prime Society of Fairfield. Captain Nathan Gold, Peter Burr, Ensign John Reed, John Edwards, Jonathan Sturges, John Barlow, Gideon Allen, Samuel Wilson, Samuel Jennings, Captain John Wakeman, Moses Dimon and Lieutenant Joseph Wakeman had purchased these lands from the Indians for twenty pounds in 1710 after it had been granted to them in 1707 by the General Assembly. They petitioned in 1736 for a patent. The patent was granted "provided the persons, their associates, heirs and assigns, shall settle on said lands so many good inhabitants, as will make up in the whole fifty families within three years next coming." These proprietors were granted town privileges and to exercise all of the voting powers and privileges as proprietors of common undi-



vided lands under the laws of the colony. In 1740 it was named New Fairfield.

The taxable estates of Fairfield had reached £37,793 7s 9d by 1739. There were two sets of taxes. The Towne Rate and the Country Rate. One year Samuel Sturges was to be collector of both. The former to be "one penny and half penny on ye pound on ye whole list of Estate", the latter to be paid in provisions.

The winter of 1740 was one to be remembered for a long time. William Wheeler reported that snow filled the roads and buried a pair of oxen. They were found by their breathing holes. The harbor at Black Rock was frozen from the middle of December to the middle of March. It did not thaw any "for 40 days".

England having declared war on Spain on October 23, 1739, a proclamation of War was issued by Governor Joseph Talcott, calling for volunteers. England also declared war on France and Fairfield hastened to do her part in both encounters. Troops were raised and equipped. Black Rock Harbor was the scene of many vessels departing with men, supplies and horses to join other members of the fleet at New London. These efforts proved very costly for the Connecticut Colony and once again the money of the Colony depreciated greatly.

In 1751 the new Congregational Church building of the Prime Society was completed. It was 60 feet by 44 feet and 26 feet high with a steeple of 120 feet in which hung a bell.

In 1753 there was much illness in Town and two or three people died each day from dysentery during the winter months.

Once again the threat of war was heard by the Connecticut planters and in 1755, the Assembly ordered that one thousand men should be immediately raised, armed and equipped. Every able man who enlisted to march against the French, was given a bounty of thirteen shillings (perhaps \$2.00). An additional seven hundred fifty men were ordered to be raised under the same bounty. Here is a typical military order:

To Either Constable of Fairfield in Fairfield County—Greetings:

"Whereas Col. Andrew Burr hath ordered Lieutenant John Jennings of said Fairfield to put in Martials Array a number of the soldiers in said Company under his command and them to march to said relief of Fort Edward now in danger of an attack from the enemy —

These are therefore in his Majesties Name to Command you forthwith to impress as many horses as will be sufficient for transporting of Soldiers that

shall be drafted out or detached for the purpose aforesaid to the aforesaid Fort—Dated at Fairfield, Aug. 13th, 1757.

David Rowland, Justice Peace

Great losses of men were experienced again by Fairfield. Seventeen French prisoners were sent to Fairfield. The selectmen were ordered "to receive manage and support them as if they were inhabitants of the town". The War continued the following Spring and another twenty-five hundred soldiers were ordered to be raised in Connecticut. This time a bounty of 36 shillings (a little over \$4.00) and a blanket were offered to all who would enlist. These troops were held in readiness and the chief military officers were expected to examine the ammunition of each company under his command in May and October.

A new Society was ordered to be made from the northern part of Greens Farms, part of Greenfield and Wilton—under the name of Norfield. This was in 1757.

*May 1757*

Upon the memorial of Cornelius Dikeman and others, inhabitants of the northern parts of Greens Farm Society, of part of Greenfield in the township of Fairfield and part of Wilton in Norwalk in Fairfield county, praying to be a distinct ecclesiastical society, and the report of a committee in their favour: This Assembly do enact and order that the inhabitants within the limits hereafter mentioned shall be and hereby are made and constituted a distinct ecclesiastical society, and hereby are endowed with all the privileges and immunities of such societies in this Colony, and shall be called by the name of Norfield; and that the bounds of said society shall be as follows, viz: beginning at the military bounds in the western line of Fairfield township twenty rods above John Morehouse's dwelling house, and from thence running easterly to the widow Sarah Fanton's dwelling house, including the same, and so on to Greenfield parish line; thence northward with said line to Aspetuck River; thence running northerly by said river to Gilbert's highway so called, about half a mile west of the mile of common; thence northerly by said highway up to Redding south line, and thence westerly by said south line to the westerly line of Fairfield township; then southerly as the perambulation line between the towns of Fairfield and Norwalk runs to the western branch of Saugatuck River, and then by said branch till it comes to said dividing line again; then running down with said line to said military line. Provided nevertheless, that nothing herein contained shall be construed to exempt those persons included in this society and taken out of the society of Greenfield from being taxed by the society of Greenfield their proportionable part to perform the covenant said society of Greenfield lately made with Mr. Goodsell their late pastor, to pay him a certain sum of money for and in lieu of his maintenance.



Stratfield Baptist Church too was organized about this time and permission was granted to "erect a house of publicke worship at Elbow Hill".

In 1756 there were 4,455 people in Fairfield.

On November 14, 1757 the town voted "that a Committee be appointed to provide firewood and other things necessary for ye soldiers that are expected to be billeted within this town and that it be at the charge of the town" and the following spring, they asked the General Assembly for reimbursement of money spent for soldiers while they stayed in Fairfield. A short while later a committee was appointed to "dispose of such things as are left from the billeting of the soldiers".

And further:

23 lbs. was voted for supplying ye Guard House and Hospital in this Town with firewood for ye use of ye soldiers now quartered here belonging to his Majesty's 48th Regiment of foot and that Captain Samuel Burr shall procure such wood and examine said lands and shall take proper receipt upon ye delivery thereof of some proper person belonging to said Regiment.

Every inhabitant of Fairfield who had quartered members of this Regiment during the winter months was reimbursed.

A hospital was set up in a house near where Roger Ludlowe High School now stands on Unquowa Road and not far from the Old Powder House.

On March 22, 1758 there was an earthquake which was felt all over New England and in Fairfield as well.

The taxable estates of Fairfield reached £53,358 7s 6d in 1759 and was larger than any other town except Norwich.

The colonies' victories over the French of the past years had not been complete and the French continued to push on to regain what they had lost.

More soldiers were needed.

An additional 40 shillings (about \$5.00) was added to the five pound bounty granted to each voluntary enlistment. The names of many Fairfield leaders appeared again and again in the several campaigns. Judge Ebenezer Silliman, Honorable David Rowland, Colonel John Burr, Colonel Andrew Burr, Colonel John Read, Captain James Smedley would be just a few that might be named.

North Fairfield, which was made up of the northerly parts of Stratfield and Greenfield and the westerly part of the parish of North Strat-

ford, petitioned the General Assembly for parish privileges.

#### OCTOBER 1761

Upon the memorial of John Gilbert etc., inhabitants of the northly parts of the parishes of Stratfield and Greenfield, and of the westerly part of the parish of North Stratford, in the county of Fairfield, praying this Assembly that they may be made a distinct ecclesiastical society, and that their limits may be: to begin at the northeasterly corner of the parish of Norfield, and to extend from thence southeasterly in the easterly line of Norfield parish down to the southeasterly corner of said parish, and to continue the same course till it comes down even with the second cross highway, so called, and from thence to run in a straight course to said second cross highway, and then to run in said highway until it comes to the highway that passes from front to rear of the long lots in Fairfield between Morehouse's and Turney's long lots, so called, and thence to run down in said last-mentioned highway till it comes to the first cross highway, so called, and from thence to extend easterly in said cross highway till it comes to Fairfield mill river, so called, and thence to run with said river until it comes to the line between the towns of Fairfield and Stratford, and from thence to run on a course at right angles 250 rods into Stratford, and from thence to run a parallel line to said town's line northerly until it comes to the easterly bounds of the parish of Stratfield, and then to run in the line of said Stratfield until it comes to the southeasterly corner of the parish of Redding, and from thence to run in the southerly line of said Redding parish until it comes to the place began at; or that a committee may be appointed to view their circumstances and situation, and make report etc.: Resolved by this Assembly, that Samuel Olmsted, Esqr, of Ridgefield, Samuel Fitch, Esqr, of Norwalk, and John Fowler, Esqr, of Milford, be and they are hereby appointed a committee to view the circumstances of the memorialists, their situation and the circumstances of the adjoining societies, and to hear all parties concerned therein, and their report thereof with their opinion thereon to make to the General Assembly to be holden at Hartford in May next.

A society was constituted October 1762, by the name of North Fairfield. (Easton of today)

Greenfield also started to build a new meeting house that same year.

On December 9, 1766, it was voted that the Parish of Redding shall be a Township by themselves. Apparently some of the people of Redding wanted more land than the Fairfield people felt they should have for on October 6, 1767 it was voted

that David Burr, Esqr., be and he is by said Town appointed an agent to appear for and represent ye Town of Fairfield at the General Assembly of this Colony to oppose Gershom Lyon and Ebenezer Lyon and others in a memorial brought by them to ye General Assembly praying to be annexed to and included within the limits of the Town of Redding and



to enlarge the southern boundaries of said Town of Redding.

Judge Ebenezer Silliman and a committee prepared a paper giving reasons why the colonists should not be charged internal taxes—Stamp duties, which was sent to Parliament. Protest meetings against the Stamp Act were held throughout the colonies. Little effort was made to enforce it and in 1766, it was repealed. However, the joy which was evidenced by its repeal was short lived for just two years later, a tax was levied on tea, glass, paper and painters' colors sent to America.

All raised their voices against taxation without representation. The Sons of Liberty and the Daughters of Liberty banded together to give up the use of tea. Many of the leaders of the period wrote letters of protest to the powers in Great Britain. Dr. Benjamin Franklin<sup>1</sup>, John Hancock, Patrick Henry, Jonathan Trumbull, Samuel Adams, James Otis, John Adams, John Dickinson, all joined in voicing their opinions against this form of taxation.

In 1767 two Indians were whipped and stood in the pillory on the Green for stealing a child and leaving it in the forest.

About that time a prisoner set the jail on fire hoping that he might thus escape. The story goes that the prisoners were led from the burning inferno and lined up when one of the prisoners with tears in his eyes was heard to say "that was the best house I ever had".

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<sup>1</sup> There is an interesting story that is centered around Dr. Franklin and the Rising Sun Tavern which stands at the rear of the Town Green and where Washington also stayed.

It seems that on one occasion Dr. Franklin arrived and was most anxious to eat dinner and be off again. When he entered the Tavern dining room, he found a capacity crowd and no empty seats. In a loud voice, he requested a bowl of oysters for his horse. This at best seemed rather strange to those in charge but upon hearing the request, several of the guests were said to leave their places at the tables to go outside and have a look at this strange type of horse that needed a bowl of oysters. The story continues that with so many out viewing the *unusual* animal, Franklin got a seat for dinner without further delay! Well, as the old saying goes—There are many roads to Rome!

On April 18, 1768 it was voted that

County of Fairfield have liberty to erect a Court House on the Meeting House Green a little northwesterly of the new schoolhouse . . . the Town of Fairfield have liberty to erect a Prison and house for ye gaol keeper on the west part of the Meeting House Green, northwesterly of the pond and southeasterly of ye Country Rd and liberty for a garden for ye gaoler . . .

Gold Sellick Silliman was sent to Hartford "to oppose any person or persons that shall make a motion to said Assembly for altering the place for holding either the Superior Court or County Courts. The Towne was also willing to grant something over and above their proportions towards building the Court House. This amounted to one penny on the pound above their proportion. Stamford, Ridgefield, Danbury and Redding wanted to remove the Courthouse and the jail to Norwalk. The County Buildings were an interest of many for years ahead.

In 1771 lightning killed two men in the Stratfield Meeting House. In 1772 there were seven large snow storms in the month of March and it was said that on April 2, the snow was higher than the fences. On September 2, 1772, there was a severe thunder storm between 8:30 and 11:30 and the lightning struck more than 100 times in Fairfield.

Feeling against the tyranny of Great Britain grew daily and many resolved to free the colonists of these demands. General Gage had ordered his troops to Fairfield and other towns to keep surveillance over the colonists. The cloud of war hung ever nearer with the growing resentment. The use of tea was laid aside and it rapidly accumulated in the British warehouses.

The Boston Tea Party resulted and the Whigs and Tories became a reality.

An old toast—popular in 1774

Addition to the Whigs

Subtraction to the Tories

Multiplication to the Sons and Daughters of Liberty

And division to the enemies of America.



## CHAPTER 6

### 1774-1799

In 1774 there were 4863 people in Fairfield. In the list of 169 towns in Connecticut, Fairfield stood seventh in taxable wealth. Her political and social powers were also held in great esteem.

The Town Meetings had considered rather usual items of business for the past few years until December 20, 1774 when it was

Voted and agreed that a Committee be appointed to prepare votes to be passed (if ye Town think proper) at ye adjourned Town Meeting respecting Association of the Continental Congress in Philadelphia in October last past. G. Sellick Silliman, Jonathan Sturges, Thaddeus Burr, Andrew Rowland, Nathan Bulkley Esquires, Captain Elijah Abell, Ebenezer Silliman Esquire, (who had been chosen Speaker of the House in Hartford) Doctor John Allen be the Committee for the purpose aforesaid.

That meeting was then adjourned to Thursday of the following week which was December 29, 1774 at 9:00 o'clock in the forenoon. Apparently not too many appeared at such an early hour for they adjourned for an hour and a half and then reconvened at 10:30. At this session they voted for the Independence of the Colonies and the Town Meeting minutes read as follows:

#### *Votes For Independence Of The Colonies*

At a Legal Meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town of Fairfield held by Adjournment on the 29th Day of December A:D: 1774

Ebenezer Silliman Esqr. Moderator

This Meeting having *duly considered* the Agreement and association entered into by the *Continental Congress* Lately held at Philadelphia, do heartily approve thereof and adopt the same And take this opportunity to Express their most grateful sense of the good Services of the worthy Delegates from this Colony who attended said Congress: And pursuant to the Eleventh Article of said Agreement and Association make a choice of the following gentlemen to be a Committee for the purposes therein mentioned (viz.) Gold Selleck Silliman, Jonathan Sturges, Job Bartram, Andrew Rowland, Samuel Squier, Jonathan Bulkley, Elijah Abel, Increase Bradley, Eliphalet Thorp, Aaron Jennings, Benjamin Lacy, Daniel Wilson, Azariah Odell, David Hubbell, Zalmon Bradley, John Hubbell, Thomas Cable, Joseph Hanford, Stephen Gorham, Thaddeus Burr, Jonathan Lewis, David Dimon, John Wilson,

Joseph Strong, Albert Sherwood, Moss Kent, Samuel Wakeman, John Squire, Ichabod Wheeler, Ebenezer Bartram, Jonathan Dimon, Jabez Hill, George Burr, Hezekiah Hubbell, Benjamin Wheeler, Joseph Hide, Jeremiah Sherwood, Daniel Andrews, Hezekiah Bradley, Joseph Bradley, Ephraim Lyon and John Allen.

Voted That if any Person or Persons shall directly or indirectly with intent to dissuade, disunite or otherwise prevent us from Strictly complying with and conforming to said Agreement & association Publish, Vend or Sell or otherwise dispose of any Books, Pamphlets or publications in this Town directly tending thereto: Such Person or Persons shall be dealt with & exposed in the same way and manner as is prescribed in said *Eleventh Article* for such Person or Persons as violate said Agreement & Association.

Voted that it is expedient a County Congress be held to advise & Consult on the most Effectual Measures to carry the said Agreement & Association into Execution.

Voted that Col. Gold Selleck Silliman, Jonathan Sturges, Andrew Rowland Esqrs, Mr. Job Bartram & Thaddeus Burr Esqr. be a Committee of Correspondence for this Town.

Ordered by this Meeting that a Copy of ye foregoing votes be sent by the aforesaid Committee of Correspondence to one or more of the Printers that they may be made Public.

Test. Nathan Bulkley, Town Clerk.

The news of the patriotic manifestations of the people of Boston had spread to several parts of the land and with it a profound realization of the firm resolve of the Sons of Liberty throughout the Country. Those who favored the British were called Tories while the Sons of Liberty were classed as Whigs. About one third of the Americans were Tories.

Earlier the patriots of Fairfield had collected supplies for the relief of the suffering in Boston and had also arranged for the transportation of these supplies. A note of appreciation from these troubled people in Boston was received by the Townspeople. It read:

Boston November 24th 1774

Gentlemen:

The Testimony which the Patriotic Inhabitants of the Town of Fairfield have given of their Attach-



ment to the Common and Glorious Cause of Liberty by their liberal Donation of Seven hundred and fifty bushels of Grain by Capt. Thorp has afforded much comfort as well as Seasonable Relief to their friends in Boston; who are now suffering under the cruel Rod of Ministerial Tyranny and Oppression.

The Sympathy of our friends is a great Support to us under our Tryals, notwithstanding the greatness and Severity of them; and we trust through the favour of our God we shall be enabled to persevere in our Opposition to the Enemies of America, and so Answer the Hopes and Expectations of our friends of whose generous Donations, we trust we shall ever retain a grateful sense.

We are particularly obliged by the assurances you give us, that you are not insensible of our sufferings, and the hope you express that you shall yet Consider your Selves bound to afford us such Succour and Relief as your Circumstances and our wants may demand.

May a kind Providence bountifully reward your liberality and kindness and the Blessings of him that was ready to Perish come down and rest on the Heads of the generous Inhabitants of the Town of Fairfield.

We hope the inclosed Acco't of the manner in which the Committee are distributing the Donations of our Friends and Benefactors in whose Cause (as well as our own) this Town is Suffering will meet with your Approbation as it will afford great Satisfaction to

Your Obligated Friends & Humble Serv'ts  
Henry Hill by order  
of Committee of Donations

To Jona. Sturges  
at Fairfield  
634 Bush'll Rye  
11 Bush'll Wheat  
750 Bushels

Recd. 3 Pr Shoes of Capt. Thorp

*Address on Letter of Thanks from Boston*

To Mr. Jonathan Sturges and others Committee for Collecting Donations in the Town of Fairfield, Connecticut. P Fav'r Capt. Stephen Thorp.

The above is a true Copy of the Orig'll Letter & Superscription. December 19th 1774.

Recorded p. Nathan Bulkley  
Town Clerk

The next year it was voted to add Elnathan Williams as a Committeeman to procure a place of parade in the North Fairfield Parish and the Daughters of Liberty had organized themselves into a relief society. Home spun clothing of all sorts and knitted garments were donated to the needy in Boston.

Elijah Abel was appointed Captain, Peter Hendrick Lieutenant and Seth Silliman Ensign of the First Train-Band of Fairfield.

David Dimon was appointed Captain, Eliphalet Thorp Lieutenant, and Samuel Penfield Ensign of the Second Train-Band of Fairfield.

Ebenezer Burr was established Lieutenant and

Ebenezer Hill Ensign of the Train-Band of Greenfield.

Each town was to receive a double quantity of powder, ball and flints.

Fairfield men Thaddeus Burr, Samuel Squire, David Dimon, Ebenezer Banks of Greenfield, Abijah Sterling of Stratfield, Andrew Rowland, Dr. Frances Forgue, Albert Chapman of Greens Farms and others were given responsibilities for the Colony and the State.

About 8 o'clock on the morning of April 22, 1775, a messenger brought the news of Lexington to Fairfield.

The Honorable Thaddeus Burr, High Sheriff of the County, was standing on the porch of his mansion, (the Burr Mansion—Old Post Road), discussing with Colonel Silliman and Mr. Jonathan Sturges the prospects of War when a horseman galloping down the street came to a sudden halt in front of the three members of the Town Committee of Correspondence. He handed Mr. Burr a scroll upon which was written:

To All Friends of American Liberty: Be it known that this morning (April 19th) before break of day a brigade consisting of about one thousand or two thousand men landed at Phipp's farm Cambridge, and marched to Lexington, where they found a company of our Colonial Militia in arms, upon whom they fired without provocation, and killed six men and wounded four others. By an express from Boston we find another brigade are on the march from Boston, supposed to be about one thousand. The bearer Trail Bissell is charged to alarm the country quite to Connecticut and all persons are desired to furnish him with fresh horses as they may be needed. I have spoken with several who have seen the dead and the wounded.

J. Palmer

One of the Committee of Sy.

That document—with a postscript signed by the Fairfield Committee being added—was forwarded immediately to New York and Philadelphia. Thus the session of the Town Committee of War on Thaddeus Burr's front porch ended by sending out a call to arms. From this time forth, the Burr mansion was a center of vigorous, patriotic propaganda for the Independence of the Colonies.

Soon after April 19, 1775, 50 of Fairfield's militia under Captain David Dimon were hastily marching to Boston.

On June 28, Washington passed through Fairfield enroute to Cambridge where he was to take up command of the Continental Army. While in Town, he stopped at the Burr Mansion.

On July 6, the Continental Congress ordered



Benjamin Franklin to establish a line of mile stone posts for the purpose of further communication and intelligence along the Post Road.

Franklin, who had been appointed Postmaster General in 1753, had already established some milestones in the colonies before this directive of Congress was given him. One belief states that Franklin covered the entire route in a chaise with a contrivance of his own invention attached to the wheel which registered the distance traveled. As each mile was checked off, a large stone was erected. Some bore his initial F and stated the number of miles to the next most populated town. Another idea credits his chaise being followed by a cart with heavy stones that were dropped at every mile and later being set by a group of men while a third opinion stresses the belief that stones from near-by fields were placed by the several towns according to the direction of Mr. Franklin. At any rate, regardless of the method the mileage of one mile from one stone to the other is correct and has stood the weight of time. The location of these stones often became the site of an Inn or a Tavern along the route. No two stones are alike.

In addition to the Colonial Stones, or pre-Revolutionary War ones which are referred to as the Franklin Stones proper, there were those ordered in 1775 of the intermediate period, and lastly those of the turnpike era from 1795 to and into the 19th century.

In 1950 only six Colonial stones remained between Fairfield and New Haven.

In Fairfield today there is just one<sup>1</sup>. On the Old Post Road, just east of the Sherman Parsonage where Mr. and Mrs. Charles O. C. Sloane, Jr., now live, is the 23 mile stone. The inscription has the irregular appearance and is the most westerly stone bearing the inscription of New Haven

23  
Miles  
to  
N. H.

A picture of this stone is in the picture section of this book.

Stones 22 miles and 21 miles were standing in 1939 but are no longer in existence. The 22 mile stone was located in a tangle of bushes a little east of the Handy-Harmon Company. The

21 mile stone was on the outskirts of Bridgeport. The 20 mile stone on North Avenue opposite the old Parade Ground at the corner of North and Brooklawn Avenues still stands. This was, of course, part of Fairfield at the time the stones were placed. This last stone bears the letter F and it is believed to be the only one remaining with Franklin's initial.

Well—back to the troubled days of 1775.

It was too dangerous to send provisions and ammunition by water at this time. Fairfield was supplying an abundance of food, stores and clothing to the troops in and about Boston, as well as those in Albany who were preparing for an invasion in Canada. The Town was also well represented with Officers and recruits in the forces of the "United Colonies of North America".

During all of this anticipation of War, Fairfield was the scene of the wedding of Miss Dorothy Quincy and Honorable John Hancock, President of the Continental Congress. Miss Quincy, a daughter of Edmund Quincy Esq. of Boston, had been sent from that city during the siege to the home of Honorable Thaddeus Burr. The ceremony took place on the evening of the 24th of August 1775 before a host of friends and relatives with the Reverend Andrew Elliott, pastor of the First Church of Christ performing the ceremony.

The 19th of September 1775 was set aside as a public day of prayer and fasting and Fairfield, along with the other coastal towns, were to prepare for the injured and ill by providing necessary housing and equipment.

Little protection had been given to Fairfield until the 16th of February 1776 when the General Assembly voted that 25 able bodied volunteers should erect works of defense at Fort Black Rock (on Grover's Hill) and that each should receive 8 pence per day for their provision and support. One ton of powder was to be sent to Fairfield.

Gold Sellick Silliman was commissioned a Colonel of the first battalion to be sent to the relief of New York and in May was appointed Colonel of the Regiment of the Horse which was called out at this time.

In July 1776, a sum of £200 was granted to Lieutenant John Mills, Commander of the party at Black Rock Fort as the first month's pay for the group stationed there.

That was the month when on the 4th the Declaration of Independence was adopted and the

<sup>1</sup> In Southport on King's Highway just around the corner from Oxford Place in front of the former site of the Hawkins house—1772, there is a marker which is said to be a Franklin stone. Some wonder if it really is for there is no writing on it at all and it seems quite different from the Franklin stones.



United States of America became a reality in the World.

The next month the Selectmen of the Town were given liberty to purchase two of the colony cannon from the furnace at Salisbury for use of the Fort at Fairfield—viz—one twelve pounder and one eighteen pounder or two twelve pounders and one ton of shot suitable for the cannon.

On October 31, 1776 it was voted at Town Meeting

That a guard of 26 men to guard the town nightly and every night to be set in manner following, viz: four to patrol from Sasco River to Cable's Mill and four from said Sasco River to the Mill River and four from the Mill River to the Pine Creek and six to patrol from sd Pine Creek to the Ash House Creek so called and in the Town Streets and four at Stratfield.

Voted that each of the guard have 3 shillings a night for their service.

Voted ye guard be taken out of ye Prime Society, Greens Farms, Greenfield and Stratfield.

The order for the recruits from Greenfield was issued on November 4 and a copy of it is included here:

To the Sheriff or his Deputy or either of the Constables of Fairfield County Greetings: In the name of the Governor & Company of Said Colony of Connecticut you are hereby commended forewith to warn and notify eight sufficient men from and within the limits of Captain Jonathan Dimon's Militia Company or such other able-bodied men not in the Militia rolls living in Greenfield parish in said county to appear at Captain Eliphilet Thorp's in said Fairfield at eleven o'clock in the evening of said day armed with each man a good gun and bayonet a quarter of a pound of good powder and one pound of bullets fit for their guns and three good flints and to serve as a watch or guard and to patrol on ye Sea Shore from Kinsey's Point to Sasco Creek from that time until the rising of the sun tomorrow and in like manner in every succeeding night til you shall be ordered to cease which watch are to take up and secure all suspicious persons and them hold until they shall be brought before Attorney to be examined and carefully inspected and take special care of all water crafts belonging to any person or persons and you are to signify to such watch or guard that they may not fail at their peril. Dated at Fairfield 4th day of November 1776.

Samuel Wakeman	}	Justices of the Peace
Ebenezer Banks		
Joseph Strong		
John Allen	}	Selectmen
Daniel Andrews		
Joseph Strong		
Joseph Wakeman		
Ebenezer Banks		

Fairfield was ordered to raise 20 men com-

manded by a Lieutenant and one Sergeant and soon five more men were ordered added to the battery for one year.

The town business continued to go on amid all of the prevailing anxiety and seven townsmen (or selectmen) were chosen that year.

On February 17, 1777 at the Town Meeting held in the Schoolhouse with Thaddeus Burr Esq. as Moderator, it was:

Voted yt Nathan Wheeler, Jr. be Constable ye present year in the room of Seth Down deceased.

Voted yt Nathan Wheeler, Jr. be Collector of ye Town Rate the present year in ye Parish of North Fairfield in ye room (in place of) Azariah Odell deceased and have 40 shillings for his service.

In March 7, 1777, the Governor ordered that a company of 32 men should be raised and stationed at Fairfield.

The enemy's ships were now frequenting the Sound waters about Fairfield and on April 2, 1777 preparations for War were made at a Town Meeting.

#### PREPARATIONS FOR WAR

A Town Meeting Legally warned and held in Fairfield April 2d. 1777.

Voted that Jonathan Sturges Esqr. be Moderator of the Meeting.

Voted yt Gershom Hubbell be Selectman the year ensuing in the room of Ebenezer Banks Esqr. deceased.

Voted yt the Proportion of soldiers to be furnished in this Town for the Continental Service be made out according to the alarm List and Muster Rolls in Each Society.

Also voted yt ye Selectmen make out the said Proportion of Soldiers in Each Society and Notify the Captains of the alarm List & Muster Rolls thereof.

Voted that this Town doth Engage and promise such Soldiers as shall undertake in the Continental Service belonging to this Town and not have Time and Opportunity to lay out their money and make proper provision for their families (such as have any) that their said families on their reasonable request, shall be supplied in their absence with necessities, at the prices stated by Law: on such Soldiers lodging or from time to time remitting money to the Committee to be appointed for that purpose and without any additional Expense.

Also voted yt the Selectmen be a Committee to provide for Soldiers' families according to the above vote.

Those who served received payment according to their service and the Constable kept the accounts.

Fairfield 9th June 1777

To Dan'l Sherwood, Constable,

You are desired to deduct from the Rates of those persons noted in this book who served when



warned at the Rate of three shillings per night and be particularly careful that none be paid who did not serve; also keep a particular account of every person who neglected going on guard when warned.  
per order Selectmen  
Test, Thaddeus Burr, Selectman

It was further voted that year that the Selectmen provide some suitable house for the reception of such persons who might be infected with Small Pox. Stephen Thorp, who had been appointed a captain, allowed his house at Mill River opposite Sasco Hill to be used by persons who had been inoculated with the Small Pox, which had proved a source of danger to the nearby guard house.

At a later town meeting it was

Voted yt<sup>1</sup> the Selectmen be a Committee to procure clothing for the soldiers in Continental service belonging to this town according to an order of ye Governor and Council of Safety of this State.  
dated September 12, 1777

Also voted:

Yt Captain David Hubbell, Captain John Andrews, Hez. Hubbell, Major Jabez Hill, Dan'll Duncan and Nath'll Wilson be a Committee to assist ye Selectmen in procuring the above mentioned clothing.

The Soldiers' clothing was made of tow cloth primarily and consisted of a shirt and a pair of trousers. Their tents too were made of this material. Tow is the coarse or broken fibers of flax, hemp or jute prepared for spinning by scutching or beating. These uniforms were of heavy, coarse, rough material at best. Tow linen of today is a coarse linen.

The Town . . .

Voted yt Seth Seely, Major Jabez Hill, Jonth. Lewis, Eben'r Jesup, Capt. Eben'r Hill, Daniel Andrews and Thaddeus Burr, Esqr. *be assessors*.

Voted yt Gold Selleck Silliman Esqr. as agent for the Town, prepare a Memorial to ye General Assembly in October next, praying said Assembly to Appoint a Committee to enquire into the Damage done to the Inhabitants of this Town by the Ministerial Army when they went to Danbury in April last past.

When the British attacked Danbury, they had plundered the houses of some of the inhabitants of Fairfield, taking almost everything they found. They had taken their horses and cattle and really left them in distressing circumstances. It was at this point that General Silliman and the Fairfield Militia first met Governor Tryon.

William Wheeler in his Journal had this to say about the Danbury Raid:

<sup>1</sup> Yt stands for "that".

## DANBURY RAID

April 24, 1777

18 sails landed at Compo. 2500 men who marched up through Greenfield and North Fairfield to Danbury stayed there one night—destroyed the stores of provisions—Our people collected and General Arnold built a breastwork in Ridgefield and with 250 men stopped the whole Army for 15 minutes—on our side Colonel Gould and a considerable number were killed.

The next month John Hancock, who had just resigned after serving two years as President of the Continental Congress, passed through Fairfield en route to Boston with a group of light dragoons.

Fairfield's closeness to the War continued and on December 29, 1777 the following vote was accepted:

### TOWN MEETING—December 29, 1777

Voted yt the Selectmen procure an Account of all ye Inhabitants of this Town that have enlisted into the Continental Service & for how long a time & also of all foreigners: And of all ye Inhabitants of sd Town & foreigners yt have been hired into sd Service and for how long a time and also of the Persons who hired them.

Just four days later another town meeting was called and the Articles of Confederation were endorsed. Three hundred copies were received by the town and were distributed to the inhabitants.

A Town Meeting held in Fairfield on Fryday ye 2d Day of January A:D: 1778. According to the above adjournment The former Moderator Gen'll G.

Voted that this Meeting do approve of the Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union. Agreed upon by the Continental Congress: and do desire the Assembly of this State to Authorize their Delegates to Ratify the same in Congress in behalf of this state.

Voted yt Isaac Bennett and Hez. Bradley be a Committee to assist the selectmen in providing for the families of soldiers who are in the Continental Service.

These were anxious days for the early settlers and in February at:

A Town Meeting Legally warned and held in Fairfield February 2d. 1778.

Voted yt Gold Selleck Silliman Esqr. be Moderator of this meeting.

Voted & Agreed yt there be forty-two men enlisted to keep guard on the sea coasts at Stratford: and the same number at McKensies Point<sup>1</sup>: and the same number at Frost Point & the same number at Compo: that six men mount guard at each of the above

<sup>1</sup> McKensies Point, or Kenzie's Point as it is known to the senior residents, lies east of the old Tidemill on Mill River in Southport at the foot of Sasco Hill.



mentioned places every night at sunset and continue there until sunrise ye next morning: And that each man have six shillings per night when in Service.

Also voted yt ye Selectmen enlist men for sd guards and make out their Rotations and give them directions respecting their Service.

Voted yt ye Town do desire that the Alarm post, for the Militia to Repair in Case of an Alarm, be the places of Parade in the first Society and in Stratfield: And at Jesup Wakeman's in Greens Farms.

The necessities of the Town were maintained throughout all of this anxiety. A special tax of £2500 was set aside in the Town Treasury for the purpose of repairing and mending the bridges. Ansel Truby was given permission to build a house near Applegate's gate. The Tax Rate was 6 shillings on the pound and "Capt. Nath'll Seely was given Liberty to build a Pound near his Dwelling house at his own cost." Twenty jurymen rather than 14 were now being appointed.

In March at

A Town Meeting Legally warned and held in Fairfield March 25th: 1778.

Voted yt Capt. Hezekiah Hubbell be Moderator of this Meeting.

Voted yt the Selectmen keep up the guards on the Sea Coasts until the first Day of June next at the Cost of the Town.

The coastal towns lived in constant fear of the enemy and Fairfield furthered its activities with winter quarters being provided the soldiers who were guarding the town and subscriptions were taken in the town toward supplies to carry on the War. A company of volunteers was raised and a company of 24 men was ordered to be stationed in Fairfield, John Odell, Lieutenant, to be in charge of these "24 mattrosses".<sup>1</sup>

The selectmen were charged with the responsibility of supplying needed clothing for the soldiers.

A Town Meeting Legally warned and held in Fairfield April 27th: A:D: 1778.

Voted yt Thads. Burr Esqr. be Moderator of this Meeting.

Voted yt Sturges Lewis, Capt. Job Bartram, Seth Seely, Joseph Hide, Moses Sherwood, David Hubbell, Increase Bradley Esqr., Sam'll Wakeman Esqr. and Isaac Bennett be a Committee to provide Clothing for the officers and soldiers in the Continental Army belonging to this Town according to an Act or Resolve of the General Assembly passed on the second Thursday of January last past.

Voted yt the Selectmen be directed to borrow such sums of Money as may be necessary to purchase the Clothing for ye officers and Soldiers till the same can be had out of the Treasury of this State.

In the Fall, the Selectmen requested additional powder and ball as the previous supplies had been exhausted. A company from Fairfield was ordered to Newport. Thirty pounds of musket powder and twenty pounds of lead were sent. General Silliman was directed to fit up a small vessel to cruise the Sound and to arrange for provisions to supply an appropriate guard for the battery at Fairfield.

A Town Meeting held in Fairfield December 23d 1778.

Voted yt Dan'll Lacey be surveyor of Highway ye year ensuing.

Voted and Agreed yt Increase Bradley Esqr., Messrs. John Hide, Del. Bennett, Stephen Wakeman, James Bennett, Sam'll Squier Esqr., Thads. Wakeman, John Wakeman, Jur. Peter Smith, Colo. Jonathan Dimon, David Silliman, Nathan Wheeler, Jr., Benjamin Lacy and Seth Seeley be a Committee to provide for officers and soldiers wives and families who are in the Continental Service belonging to this Town.

Voted and Agreed yt the Salt at Mill River belonging to the Town be disposed of by the direction of the Selectmen for the purpose of Supplying the families of officers and soldiers in the Continental service with necessities.

Voted and Agreed yt Capt. Job Bartram, Messrs. Seth Seely, Richard Hubbell, Jr., Joseph Hide, Moses Sherwood, Increase Bradley Esqr., David Williams, Sam'll Wakeman, Esqr. and Mr. Isaac Bennett be a Committee to provide Clothing for the officers and soldiers belonging to this Town in the Continental Service according to a late act or Resolve of the General Assembly of this state.

Governor Trumbull appointed December 30 as a day of Thanksgiving in Connecticut.

A company of 50 men were ordered to be stationed at Fairfield and a bonus of eight pounds was offered to any enlisted man who would furnish himself with a blanket, a bayonet and firearms. They were also to be exempt from taxes until August for this self-equipping. The monthly pay for this company was to be—a captain £18, a lieutenant £12, a sergeant £7 4s, a corporal £6 12s, a drummer and a fifer £6 12s, and a private £6. Two armed vessels were also planned for immediate cruising of the Sound. Captain Samuel Smedley of the Ship "Defense" was ordered to sail on an expedition on the Sound against the enemy. This ship owned by the State, had first been officered in 1776 by Ebenezer Bartram as First Lieutenant (who soon re-

<sup>1</sup> Mattrosses—a soldier in a train band next to the gunner, to assist them in loading, firing and sponging the guns. They carried fire-locks and marched with the store wagons as guard and assistants. Sometimes sailors and marines who sleep in hanging-mats or hammocks were also called mattrosses.



tired because of infirmity) and Samuel Smedley as Second Lieutenant. In 1777 at the age of 24 Samuel Smedley became Captain of the "Defense" and Joseph Squire, also of Fairfield, became Lieutenant of Marines. The majority of the original crew came from Fairfield or Stratford. During its career of three years, this ship, which was less than 100 feet long, took 600 prisoners and 12 prizes. The latter which were listed to her credit were:

May 20, 1776	sloop	Life Guard
June 20, 1776	ship	Lord Howe
June 20, 1776	ship	George
June 20, 1776	brig	Annabelle
July 1, 1776	brig	John
March 12, 1777	bark	Lydia
March 16, 1777	schooner	Anna
March 20, 1777	brig	Grog
April 20, 1777	snow	Swift
April 20, 1778	ship	Cyrus
June 21, 1778	sloop	Tonyns Revenge
June 21, 1778	sloop	Ranger

It was said that the "Defense" had more to its credit than any other vessel of like tonnage in service during the Revolutionary War.

On March 10, 1779 in returning from a cruise on the Sound, the vessel struck Goshen Reef near New London Harbor and bilged. The guns and stores were saved but some of the men lost their lives as the ship turned over. The ship "Guilford" took her place.

After this Captain Smedley declined the offer of the command of another state war vessel and came back to his farming in Fairfield. Brigadier General Silliman was given an order of 3000 flints and 500 pounds of lead and necessary materials for repairing the battery at Black Rock at about the same time.

On May 2nd General Silliman was taken prisoner by the enemy and carried to Long Island. This account from Mrs. Silliman's Journal:

In the year 1779 he (General Silliman) was by the Capt. Gen. or Governor stationed to guard the coast in the vicinity of Fairfield—having the care of all the out-posts in that county—and his own home was allowed to be his headquarters. In this situation he continued until the 1st of May, when Gen. Clinton, the commanding officer at New York, sent a whaleboat of Tories to surprise & take him. At a midnight hour, when we were all asleep, the house was attacked. I was first awakened by his calling out, 'Who's there!' At that instant there was a banging at both doors, they intending to break them down, or burst them open, & this was done with great stones as big almost as they could lift. They left them at the door. My dear companion then

sprang up, caught his gun, & ran to the front of the house, & as the moon shone, saw them through the window, & attempted to fire, but his gun only flashed & missed fire. At that instant the enemy burst in a window sash & all jumped in, seized him & said he was their prisoner & he must go with them. He asked if he might dress himself. They said yes, if he would be quick. All this time I lay quaking. They followed him into the bed-room where I & my dear little boy lay, with their guns & bayonets fixed. Their appearance was dreadful, & I feared the consequences to myself as well as to him, as it was but three months before the birth of my last child. It was then their prisoner addressed them in mild terms & begged them to leave the room, & told them their being there would frighten his wife. They then withdrew for a minute or two & then returned, when he asked them out again; they hurrying him he went out & shut the door. After that I heard them breaking the windows, which they wantonly did with the breeches of their guns. They then asked him for his money; he told them he had none but continental & that would do them no good. Then they wished his papers; he said his public papers were all sent abroad, & his private ones would do them no good. Then some wanted one thing & some another; he told them mildly he hoped he was in the hands of gentlemen & that it was beneath them to plunder. With these arguments he quieted them so that they plundered but little. They then told him he must go. He asked if he might go & take leave of his wife. They said yes, if he would make haste. He then came in & dropped a bundle of his most valuable private papers under something on the table, took leave of me with great seeming fortitude & composure, & went away with them. As soon as I heard the door shut I arose & went to the bed-room of our son, Wm. Silliman, & found he was gone, although I did not hear anything of their taking him. I then went to the door & saw them bearing away their prisoners. I then sent to inform those at the next house, when they fired a gun which frightened the enemy very much, as they had not got above a quarter of a mile from our house. They took them down about two miles to their whaleboat, where they left one man, & proceeded on their voyage to Long Island. This event took place May 1st, 1779, & I heard nothing from them in three weeks. After three weeks of great anxiety I received a letter from your father informing me where he was. I think they were then at Flatbush, on Long Island. In that he told me where to send my letters to him for inspection, as no letters were suffered to pass without. After this we corresponded, but wrote under such restraint that it did not seem to be the thing, but it was better than not to have done it at all. My next step was to look for an asylum in case of an invasion of the town, as we expected. Your brother William coming home on parole, I had the benefit of his assistance. He went with me to North Stratford, & there engaged part of a good house, in case we were obliged to quit our own. But to return & be a little more particular about matters that relate to the capture of your father & brother. There were nine that come over in the whaleboat; one stayed



with the boat, & eight came to our house; the eight went down to the boat with their captives, & embarked aboard their boat between the hours of 1 & 2 o'clock in the morning of the Sabbath. They had a boisterous time over, but that did not prevent some of them from casting their eyes on some matters they had plundered from the house, especially a beautiful fusee, a pair of elegant pistols inlaid with silver all over, & an elegant sword, which one of them, who had worked at our house, took much pleasure in flourishing about, & he it was supposed who piloted them to our house. When they arrived at Long Island shore, they were hailed by a Col. Symes, who commanded there. 'Have you got him?' 'Yes.' 'Have you lost any men?' 'No.' 'That's well!' said Symes. 'Your Sillimans nor your Washingtons are not worth a man!' He then ordered his men to the guard-house with the prisoners. Says your father, 'Am I going to the guard-house?' 'Yes.' When they came there, says your father to the adjutant, 'Is it thus you treat prisoners of my rank?' He said, 'We don't look on you as we should on a continental General, but a militia General.' 'But how will you view me when my exchange is talked of?' 'I understand you, sir' & walked out & suppose reported to his commanding officer. Soon after that your father & brother had an invitation to breakfast at a neighboring house, where they went & refreshed themselves. Soon after a horse & carriage was sent for them to ride to New York, escorted by a guard of dragoons. When they arrived there, there was a great flocking to see the rebel General; but by & by a gentleman came & whispered to him to go with him, for fear he would be insulted by the rabble. He conducted them to good lodgings, where he was kept until ordered to Flatbush, on Long Island, where he remained until he was exchanged for Judge Jones, the circumstances of whose capture were somewhat singular, & very interesting to us. By all my investigation & that of my friends we could not find any in the possession of the Americans the British would accept for your father. I wrote to the Governor for direction & assistance in the matter; he, too, felt himself much interested, not only for his personal friendship for the prisoner, but for the people, as he said he had not a more faithful officer than he; but he knew of none the enemy would accept for him. At length it was thought best to attempt a capture for that purpose, & Judge Jones on Long Island was thought a proper person, as he was a great Tory; once, I believe, Judge of their Supreme Court. Capt. David Hawley of Newfield kindly offered, I think, to undertake the enterprise. He soon manned a whaleboat, of which he was commander, & set off for Long Island. When they reached the shore of that place they had about fifty miles to go by land before they reached the seat of the Judge, which, I think, was in Southampton. They were now in the enemy's land & must not be seen travelling, so they drew their boat up & hid it in the weeds, & they lay concealed in the day & traveled in the night. When they came to the house they were struck with the appearance, for the Captain said it looked like a castle. I forgot how long they were going, but it was about 9 o'clock

Saturday night when they came to the house, when they heard music and dancing. Capt. Hawley rapped at the door, but none heard; he then burst a panel out & jumped in & laid hold on the Judge, whom he found in the entry, & told him he was his prisoner. And, as Providence ordered it, there was there a young gentleman on a visit whose name was Hulet; him they took, too, & he served very well to exchange for your brother. They soon hurried them out of the house, & had to pass nigh a guard. When they came here the Judge hemmed very loud. Capt. Hawley, who held him by the hand, told him he must not do so, but he repeated his hem. Hawley told him if he hemmed again he would run him through. He afterwards desisted, & they went on through the night, & when the morning came they conducted the Judge to such lodgings as they had, which was among the bushes, until the next night, when they went on & reached the whaleboat, I think, the third night, & glad were they to find it, for had it been taken off in their absence they would have been in a woeful case. They then went aboard & proceeded unmolested until they arrived at Newfield. News came to me in the morning that Capt. Hawley had arrived with Judge Jones. Although I was glad the event had taken place, my heart was full of sympathy for him & his family, whom I well knew how to pity, as I had so recently gone through the same trial. And wishing to make his captivity as easy as possible, I sent your brother to invite him to our house to breakfast. He came under a guard. I was introduced to him & he to me. I observed to him that the fortunes of war had brought him here under disagreeable circumstances, & as I could so well sympathize with him & his family, I wished to do everything in my power for his accommodation until the purpose of his capture was effected, when I hoped Mrs. Jones, myself & our partners would be happy in seeing each other again. But to my disappointment I found him insensible & void of complaisance, & a sullen discontent sat on his brow. He made no reply, but asked this question, Did they plunder when they took your husband? I told him not much. He said, 'They have plundered my house. I don't believe they left my wife a second sheet.' This I was sorry to hear, & afterwards, inquiring of Capt. Hawley, he told me that he held up the idea to his men that there should be no plundering, but when they landed on the other side the men said: 'What are we to get if we take Judge Jones? We run a great risk; we don't know but we may be killed. Unless you give us leave to plunder we will go no farther.' Then he saw that the expedition would be frustrated, & he was obliged to tell them that they might plunder. But to return. I got as good a dinner for my captured guest as I could, & my family paid him every attention, but he was very unsociable all the time he stayed, which was only two or three days; whence he was ordered by the Capt.-General to Middletown, thinking our house an unsafe place. Mr. Hulet, who was taken with him, was paroled by Capt. Hawley, & did not come when the Judge did, but came on afterwards, & was exchanged for your brother & went home. After that I received a very genteel billet from Mrs. Jones expressing her great



thankfulness for my politeness to her dear Mr. Jones, & begged me to accept a pound of green tea; but to return to my own situation. After your honored father was taken I had a large family, & the care & weight lay on me, but I was enabled to get along from day to day & lived in a constant alarm. The dreadful fright I had the night of his capture made me feel like the timorous roe, & I started at every noise, fearing the enemy, who were often infesting our coasts; but I endeavored to put my trust where I ought. My dear parents then were living, & your brother Joseph was with them when your father was captured, & your brothers John & James were at college; & it was happy that they were not here, or they would doubtless have shared the same fate with your father & brother.

Guards stationed at Fairfield were ordered to continue in service. The Town Meeting records show:

A Town Meeting Legally warned and held in Fairfield May 17th: A:D: 1779.

Voted yt Thads. Burr Esqr. be Moderator of this Meeting.

Voted that the Selectmen prefer a Memorial to the general assembly requesting that the Guards at Greens Farms under Lieut. Joseph Bennett may be Established on the same footing as those are under Capt. Elip't Thorp.

Voted & Agreed that the Authority and Selectmen enlist such a number of men as they shall think fit to serve as a Town guard for ye safety of ye Town that Twenty mount guard every night so long as sd Authority and Selectmen shall judge it necessary and sd guards to be under the direction of sd Authority and Selectmen.

Also voted that each man who serves on sd guards shall receive out of the Town Treasury for each night he serves as a reward for his Service five Continental dollars.

Heavy taxes were a reality to every Fairfield resident and yet they were able to send 1500 bushels of grain to the starving people of Rhode Island who had lost everything. Enemy ships continued to roam the shoreline.

This letter from Simon Couch shows the general distress which abounded.

*JUNE 18th, 1779*

Hon. Father,

I this moment let myself down to write a few lines to you to ease my troubled mind. Last Wednesday morning a little before sunrise the enemy waked me out of my sleep by firing 2 or 3 guns at the door and dashing in the windows but they never came in to the room where I was, but went through the other rooms and took William's gun and then into the kitchen and took my saddle and bridle and then went and took the cows out of the yard and then went to Morehouse's and got all they had and then drove them away to Frost Point and took of 2 cows for Wm. Godfrey and 3 for Gruman Morehouse and 1 for Widow Morehouse and 2 calves and 3 sheep for Doctor Jesup. Last week I was taken poorly. I

was taken of Sunday and it lasted till Saturday in which time I laboured under much pain and difficulty so that I am not able only to potter about but I am in hopes I shall get rugged again. In a few days business comes on here fast the grass needs cutting, corn hoeing and follow plowing but I shall get along as fast as I can if you want both the boys then we can make it due with Zadock a few days longer. The wide end of the great box  $6\frac{1}{4}$  the side end of the little box  $4\frac{1}{2}$ . We suffer very much for want of a cart but I being and having nothing Therefore with all submission I beg you to determine and dispose of me as you see convenient so no more at present but remain one amongst the number of your children.

Your loving son,  
Simon Couch.

Records show that:

A Town Meeting Legally warned and held in Fairfield, July 1st. A:D: 1779.

Voted that Jonathan Sturges Esqr. be Moderator of this Meeting.

Voted that Mr. John Morehouse Jr. & Capt. Nath'll Seely be a Committee to provide clothing for the Soldiers belonging to this Town in the Continental Service according to a Late Act or Resolve of the General Assembly.

Voted yt the civil Authority & Selectmen of this Town be requested to order Ten men in addition to ye former guards to mount guard Each night at such place as sd Authority and Selectmen shall direct and that each man have five Dollars each night for said service.

Voted yt Thads. Burr, Jonth. Sturges and Samuel Squier Esqrs. be a Committee to represent the state of this Town to the Governour and Council of Safety and Request his excellency & sd Council to order some vessel or vessels of force to guard our sea Coast against the designs of the enemy during the Summer Season.

Voted by Thads. Burr, Jonth. Sturges, Sam'll Squier & George Burr Esqrs. be a Committee to call a County Convention & represent this Town at the same; in order to Consider of some Method to prevent the depreciation of our paper Currency.

On the morning of July 7 the enemy having left New Haven in a state of plunder, fire and brigandage, appeared off Black Rock. Their presence was announced by the cannon on Grover's Hill. It was rejoicingly thought that they were on their way to New York. It was early morning and a thick fog enshrouded them. About 10 o'clock in the morning, the dense fog cleared and the enemy fleet was seen anchoring at the Pines—a little to the east of McKenzie's Point in Southport. In the late afternoon, they started to land and proceeded immediately to the Village Green where General William Tryon and Commodore George Collier posted a proclamation demanding allegiance of the inhabitants to the King of Great Britain.



From General Tryon's report, it appears that he, with the main portion of the troops, landed there and that the Hessians under General Garth made their disembarkation at the water front of Sasco Hill, over which they marched to take possession of the western section of town. The line of the conflagration extended from Mrs. Gould's house (the site of the old Gould Homestead now the Food Fair Supermarket) to Mill River in the vicinity of Perry's Mill, including both the streets and their immediate neighborhoods, and extended westward through the lower road at Greens Farms.

#### General Tryon's Proclamation:

That owing to their delusion in hoping for independence they were deceiving themselves; that the existence of a single habitation on your defenseless coast ought to be a constant proof of your ingratitude. Therefore we offer you a refuge against the distress which you universally acknowledge broods with increasing & intolerable weight over all your country; & that whosoever shall be found, & remain in peace at his usual place of residence, shall be shielded from any insult either to his property, excepting such as bear offices, either civil or military, under your present usurped government, of whom it will be further required that they shall give proof of their penitence & voluntary submission, when they shall partake of the like immunity. But those whose folly & obstinacy shall slight this favorable warning must take notice that they are not to expect a continuance of that lenity which their inveteracy would not now render blameless.

Colonel Whiting, commander of the Fairfield Troops, replied that:

Connecticut has nobly dared to take up arms against the cruel despotism of Britain, and as the flames have now preceded your flag, they will persist to oppose the utmost that power exerted against injured innocence.

The men in the village and farm houses grasped their muskets and ammunition and rallied under the command of Colonel Whiting at the rendezvous on Round Hill. The company who had charge of a field piece wheeled it to a good position on Burr's Highway (Burr Street).

Young Samuel Rowland aged ten at the time, watched the approaching troops from the Episcopal Church Steeple at the corner of Oldfield Road and Old Post Road. Many of the wives and children took refuge with relatives and friends in Greenfield Hill and Fairfield Woods, taking with them as many of their possessions and animals as they possibly could. Mrs. Silliman, wife of General Silliman, removed herself from her temporary widowhood in Holland Hill to Trumbull.

The army under Tryon was organized. The militia under Whiting combined forces as best they could but it was early evening and this was difficult. The Hessians with their General held the western part of town. Many of them broke up into small companies and went from house to house pillaging, plundering and burning as they went. On the morning of the 8th, most of the burning took place. Stone walls, fences and shrubbery were feared by the enemy as hiding places of the inhabitants, because of this, Perry's Mill remained. Some fires were started but were put out in some way by a person who fortunately had remained in the house. The Nichols family applied large wet hanks of yarn which were at the time being soaked in preparation for being dyed, to the burning spots in their house. The Hobart House, too, was saved even after it had been ignited. A little colored servant had hidden in the attic. The British set the house on fire and then departed. The little boy came downstairs when they left and extinguished the fire. The charred floor boards can still be seen today.

Some things had been hidden in unsuspected places for safe keeping. Isaac Burr, the jeweler, hid the watches left for repair at his shop within the stone fissures of his well and placed his Bible and some of his precious goods with them. Prudence Phillis, servant of Judge Sturges, took the wet linen from the wash tub and hid it among the currant bushes. Pewter dishes kept bright by constant scouring were thrown into the bottom of wells to be recovered when the danger was past. A mirror was hidden in a rye field. Mrs. Mary Thorne's parents hid their brass kettle in their asparagus bed, hoping the British wouldn't find it but they did and riddled its bottom with bullet holes.

Now where the homes are on Southport Harbor grew rye at the time of the British arrival at McKenzie's Point. The rye fields were ignited but as the rye was green, it was not completely destroyed. Some chickens secluded themselves in this field and were found to be safe after the enemy departed.

Many of the inhabitants of Southport secreted themselves in Pequot Swamp until the British had left, having taken or hidden what valuables they could.

Anna Hull, age 17, daughter of Peter Hull, having fled with the others, hid the family silver under a large rock on Mill Hill (not Split Rock but a boulder further east) and witnessed the



destruction of their dwellings and their valuables. Two tall poplar trees guarded the rock.

General Tryon<sup>1</sup> had been guided into Fairfield by a Mr. George Hoyt, a brother of Mrs. Jonathan Bulkley whose husband owned the tavern in back of the court house. Governor Tryon had promised Mr. Hoyt that his sister's house would be saved and it was. Through Mrs. Bulkley's efforts, the 3 houses on the east side of the Green were also saved.

A Town Meeting followed the burning just 12 days later and the record shows:

A Town Meeting Legally warned and held in Fairfield July 20th: A:D: 1779.

Voted that Andrew Rowland Esqr. be Moderator of this Meeting.

Voted yt George Burr, Thads. Burr and Abraham Andrews, Esqr. and Mr. Sam'll Odell be a Committee to wait upon Colo. Jonathan Dimon and desire him to appoint 50 men to keep guard in the prime Society and 25 men to keep guard at Greens Farms and 15 men to keep guard at Stratfield: also to request him to appoint such men as are friendly to the *United States of America*.

Voted yt Jonth. Lewis, Thads. Burr, George Burr, Sam'll Wakeman & Jonth. Sturges Esqr. and Messrs. Joseph Wakeman, Richard Hubbell, Jr., Dan'll Duncan & David Silliman be a Committee to put about subscriptions to raise a sum of Money as a reward for any Person or Persons that shall Captivate and take Prisoner General William Tryon, who commanded the British Troops when they burnt this Town on the seventh and eighth Days of this Instant July: And that said Committee Issue a Proclamation offering such reward as shall be subscribed for that purpose.

<sup>1</sup> General Wililam Tryon, born at Surrey, England in 1729 was trained in the profession of arms. He became a Captain of the First Foot Guards and was a loyal servant of his sovereign, having been made a Baronet. While he was chief executive of North Carolina, a group of men hostile to the government openly defied His Majesty's twenty gun sloop of War "Diligence", with her cargo of stamped paper. They seized one of the ship's boats, and carried it to Wilmington in triumphal procession. He had levied heavy taxes upon his people to maintain his status and dignity. In 1771 he became Governor of New York. When Washington blockaded the Royal Army in New York and finally compelled evacuation, Tryon though a civil officer with military power and finding his governorship in a bit of a box, decided to serve His Majesty by furthering his career as a soldier. There was just one path open to him to accomplish this aim and that was to strike at the defenseless towns of Connecticut. Thus with the cooperation of Sir George Collier, he was sent five war vessels to close the final Long Island Sound entrance and to blockade the harbor at New London. He then gathered together what loyalists, Hessians and regular troops of the British that he could and he set out from the post of Whitestone, 11 miles east of New York on July 3rd 1779. On July 5th he landed in New Haven. His first division was made up of the 54th Regiment of Foot, the "King's American", Fusileers and Hessians with 6 field pieces. Two frigates, a brig and a galley with transports took on the men and guns. His stay in Fairfield did not exceed 30 hours. Tryon acted under instruction from the English Ministry and Sir Henry Clinton, the Commander in Chief of the British forces in America. George Sackville was the backer of Tryon and Lord Germain was really responsible for the burning of Fairfield. He was practically the director from London of the war in America and a favorite of the King.

Voted yt Major Elijah Abell, Mr. Sam'll Odell, Doctor Eben'r Jesup, Capt. David Hubbell, Messrs. Dan'll Duncan and David Silliman be a Committee of Inspection the present year.

Voted yt Andw. Rowland, Jonth. Sturges and Thads. Burr, Esqrs. be a Committee to draw a narrative of the proceedings of General William Tryon on the destruction of this Town and also point out his Treatment of the Inhabitants that tarried in the Town, and the Instances wherein he violated his own Proclamation: and Cause the same to be Entered on the Town Records.

Some eye witness reports of the burning of Fairfield follow.

A letter from the Reverend Andrew Eliot to the Reverend John Eliot of Boston is to be found in the Massachusetts Historical Collection:

Fairfield, July 15, 1779

Dear Brother:

I sit down to write to you some account of the sad and awful scene which has been exhibited in this once pleasant & delightful town, now, alas! a heap of ruins, a sad spectacle of desolation & woe!

It was in the beginning of wheat harvest, a season of extraordinary labor & festivity; a season which promised the greatest plenty that had been known for many years, if within the memory of man. Never did our fields bear so ponderous a load; never were our prospects, with regard to sustenance, so bright.

The British fleet & army, with the American refugees that had possessed and plundered New Haven, set sail for that distressed place on the 6th instant.

About four o'clock the next morning, the approach of the fleet was announced by the firing of a gun from a small fort we have on Grover's Hill, contiguous to the Sound. They seemed, however, to be passing by. And about seven o'clock we with pleasure beheld them all to the westward of us steering, as we thought, to New York. A thick fog came on, which entirely deprived us of the sight of them, till between the hours of nine & ten, when the mist clearing away, we beheld the whole fleet under our western shore, & some of them close to Kensie's Point. They presently came to anchor; & lay till about four in the afternoon, when they began to land their troops a little to the east of Kensie's Point, at a place called the Pines. From thence the troops marched along the beach until they came to a lane opposite the centre of the town, through which they proceeded; & in about an hour paraded in their division on the green, between the meeting-house and court-house. From thence they detached their guards, & divided into small parties, proceeded to their infernal business. Their commanding officer was Sir George Collier by sea, & Generals Tryon and Garth by land. The approach of the fleet was so sudden, that but few men could be collected, though the alarm gun was fired immediately on the dissipation of the fog. There was no thought of opposing their landing, as our force was nothing to theirs. Our little party, however, posted themselves so as to annoy them to the best advantage, expecting they would



land at the point. When our people found them landing on the left, & marching in the rear to take possession of the town, they immediately retreated to the courthouse; & as the enemy advanced from the Beach lane, they gave them such a warm reception with a field piece which threw both round & grape shot, & with their musketry, as quite disconcerted them for some time. The column, however, quickly recovered its solidity, & advancing rapidly, forced our small body to retreat to the heights, back of the town, where they were joined by numbers coming in from the country. The enemy were also galled very much as they turned from the beach to the lane, by the cannon which played from Grover's Hill.

The town was almost cleared of inhabitants. A few women, some of whom were of the most respectable families & characters, tarried with a view of saving their property. They imagined their sex & character would avail to such a purpose. They put some confidence in the generosity of an enemy who were once famed for generosity & politeness; & thought that kind treatment & submissive behaviour would secure them against harsh treatment and rough usage. Alas! they were miserably mistaken & bitterly regretted their confidence & presumption.

The Hessians were first let loose to rapine & plunder. They entered houses, attacked the persons of Whig & Tory indiscriminately; breaking open desks, trunks, closets, & taking away everything of value. They robbed women of their buckles, rings, bonnets, aprons & handkerchiefs. They abused them with the foulest and most profane language, threatened their lives without the least regard to the most earnest cries & entreaties. Looking glasses, china and all kinds of furniture, were dashed to pieces.

Another party that came on were American refugees, who, in revenge for their confiscated estates, carried on the same direful business. They were not, however, so abusive to the women as on the former, but appeared very furious against the town & county. The Britons, by what I could learn, were the least inveterate: some of the officers seemed to pity the misfortunes of the country, but in excuse said that they had no other way to gain their authority over us. Individuals among the British troops were, however, exceedingly abusive, especially to women. Some were forced to submit to the most indelicate & rough treatment in defense of their virtue, & now bear the bruises of horrid conflict.

About an hour before sunset the conflagration began at the house of Mr. Isaac Jennings, which was consumed, with the neighboring buildings. In the evening the house of Elijah Abel, Esq., was consumed with a few others. In the night several buildings in the main street. General Tryon was in various parts of the town plot, with the good women begging & entreating him to spare their houses. Mr. Sayre, the Church of England missionary, a gentleman firmly & zealously engaged in the British interest, & who had suffered considerably in their cause, joined with them in their entreaties; he begged the General to spare the town, but was denied. He then begged that some few houses might be spared, as a shelter for those who could provide habitations nowhere else. This was denied also. At length Mr. Try-

on consented to save the buildings of Mr. Burr and the writer of this epistle. Both had been plundered ere this. He said likewise that the houses of public worship should be spared. He was far from being in a good temper during the whole affair. General Garth at the other end of the town, treated the inhabitants with as much humanity as his errand would admit.

At sunrise some considerable part of the town was standing; but in about two hours the flames became general. The burning parties carried on their business with horrid alacrity, headed by one or two persons who were born & bred in the neighboring towns. All the town from the bridge by Colonel Gold's to the Mill River, a few houses excepted escaped, was a heap of ruins.

About eight o'clock the enemy sounded a retreat. We had some satisfaction, amidst our sorrow & distress, to see that the meeting-house and a few other buildings remained. But the rear guard, consisting of a banditti, the vilest that was ever let loose among men, set fire to everything which General Tryon had left; the large & elegant meeting-house, the minister's houses, Mr. Burr's and several other houses, which had received protection. They tore the protection to pieces, damned Tryon, abused the women most shamefully, & then ran off in a most disgraceful manner. Happily our people came in & extinguished the flames of several houses; so that we are not entirely destitute.

The rear guard which behaved in so scandalous a manner were chiefly German troops, called Yagers. They carry a small rifle gun, & fire in a skulking manner, like our Indians. They may be properly called sons of plunder & devastation.

Our people on the height back of the town were joined by numbers, but not equal to the numbers of the enemy. They were skirmishing all the evening, part of the night, & the next morning. The enemy were several times disconcerted & driven from their outposts. Had they continued longer in the town it must have been fatal to them, for the militia were collecting from all parts.

Our fort yet stands. The enemy sent a row-gallery to silence it, & there was constant firing between them all night. One or two attempts were made to take it by parties of troops, but it was most bravely & obstinately defended by Lieutenant Isaac Jarvis of the town, who had but twenty-three men besides himself.

The militia followed these bloody incendiaries to the place of embarkation, & galled them considerably. The embarkation took place about twelve o'clock, & they set sail for Long Island about two or three in the afternoon.

Many were killed on both sides. The number cannot be ascertained. They carried off some prisoners, but no person of distinction.

One particular I would mention. After Tryon had begun to burn, he sent out the proclamation which you have in the Hartford paper. In the midst of hostilities, while the flames were raging & bullets flying, who should come out with the flag but Mr. Sayre. A spirited answer was sent in; & the people were so enraged that hostilities should be going on



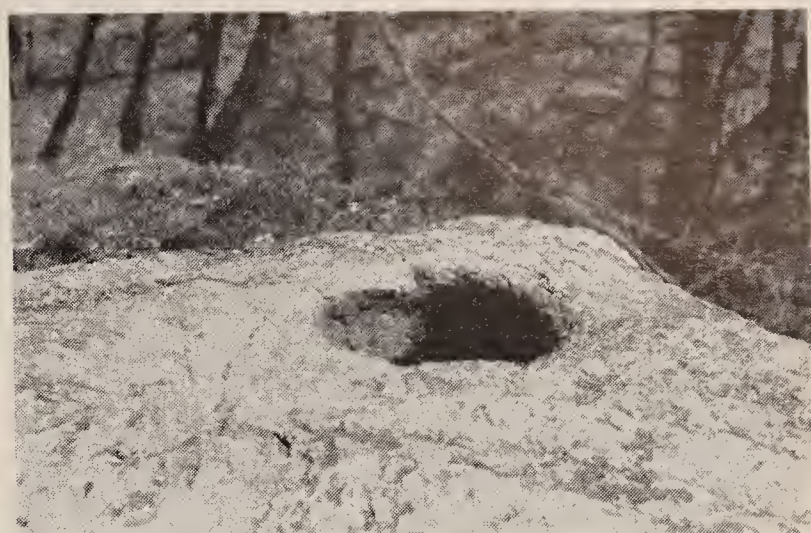


Map in Fairfield Memorial Library showing Fairfield Long Lots—1639









*Pot Hole—Samp Mortar Rock*



*Indian Caves,  
Samp Mortar  
Rock*

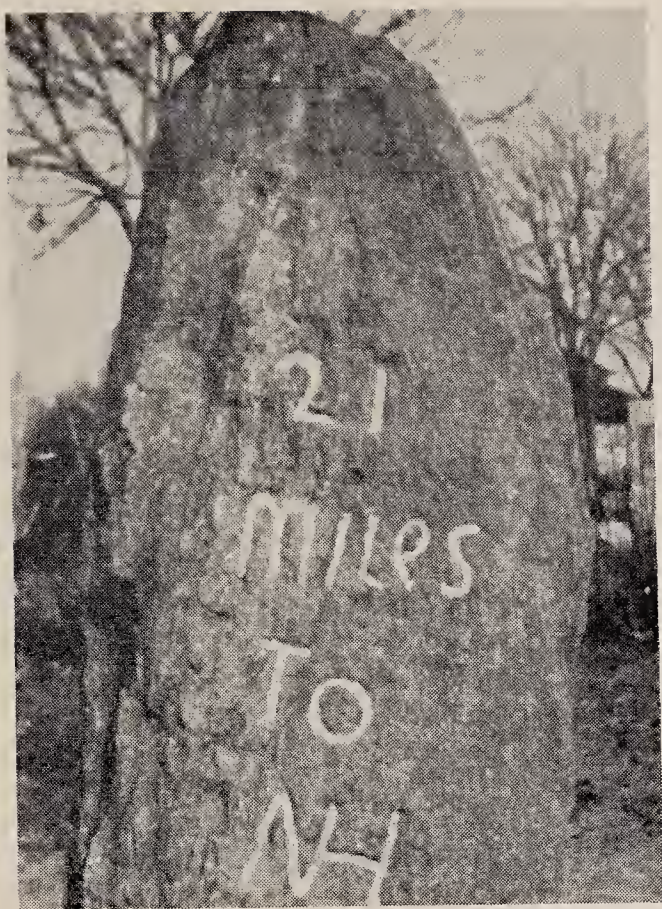




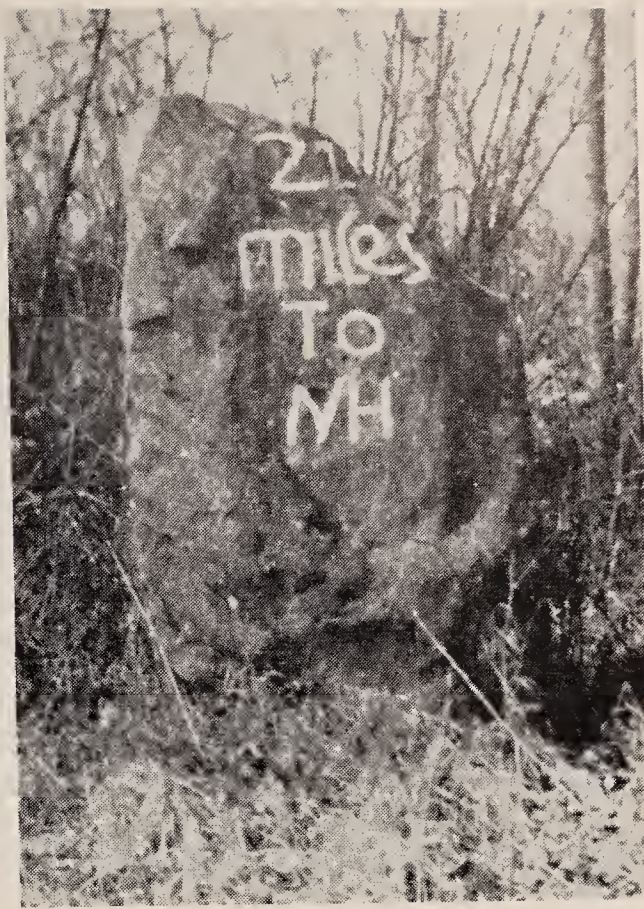


*Main Street, Fairfield—1790*  
*(fireplace panel at the Fairfield Historical Society)*

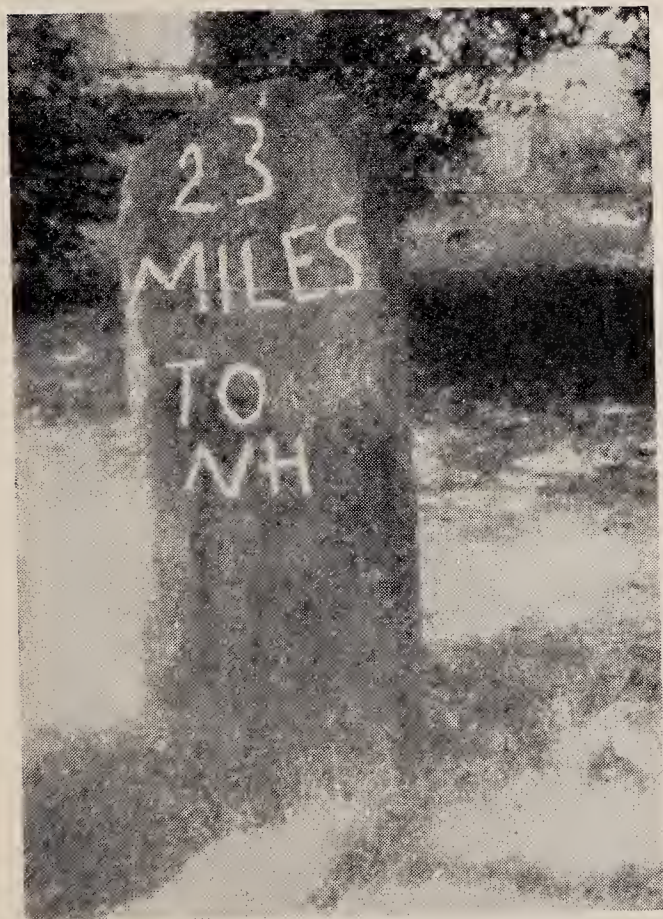




*21 Mile Stone—Tallest in Connecticut  
5 feet tall, 2 feet wide  
Note unusual monogram NH*



*22 Mile Stone*



*Franklin Milestone—in front of Sherman  
Parsonage—now home of Mr. and Mrs.  
Charles O. C. Sloane, Jr.*



*Swamp Fight Memorial Monument—Southport*



*White's Rock,  
Southport*



*Fairfield County Court House until 1853  
(Fairfield Town House) or Town Hall  
now. Built 1720. Destroyed by the British  
1779. Rebuilt 1794. Remodeled 1870.*



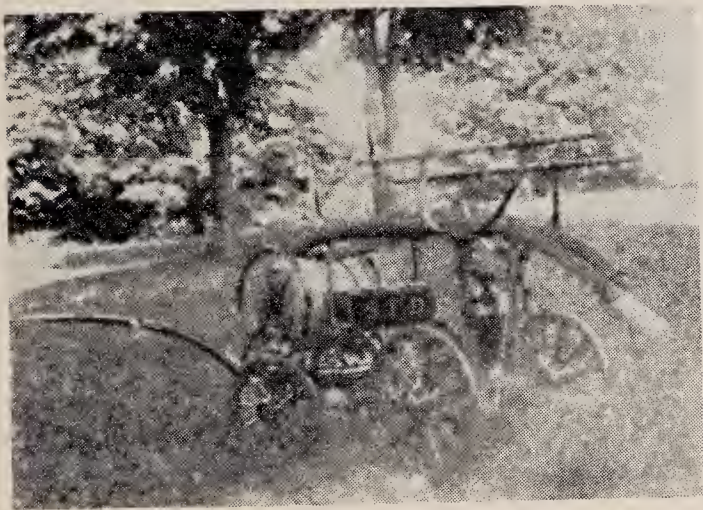
*Harbor Road—Southport—1870*



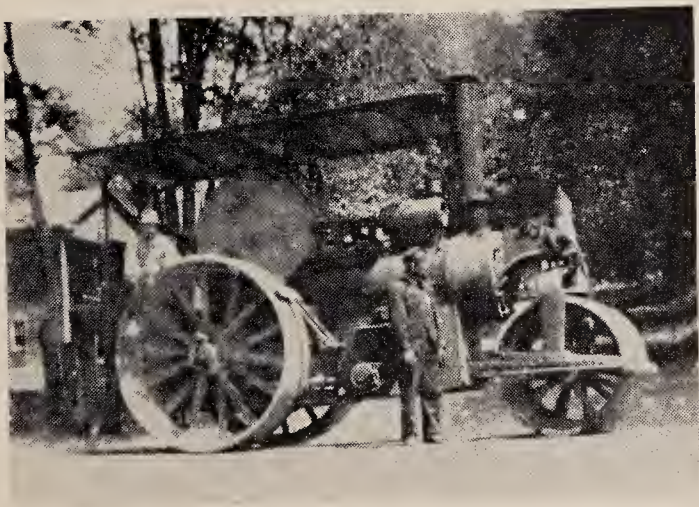




*Town Hall as it appeared in 1870 after being remodeled*



*Southport Fire Department  
First Apparatus*



*New Roller—Early Road Equipment*



*Snake Hill Road—now Burr Street  
(was a popular spot for hill climbs)*



# THE CONNECTICUT JOURNAL

NEW-HAVEN: Printed by THOMAS & SAMUEL GREEN.

THURSDAY, July 12, 1782. [No. 768.]

Sold at the Printing Office, New-Haven.  
Selling Books

Notice is hereby given, That a Maritime Court will be holden at the State-house in New-Haven, in New-Haven county, on the first day of August next, at ten o'clock P. M. by Samuel Bishop, Esq. for the purpose of determining the rights of the parties, and Ti-

A Maritime Court will be holden at Fairfield, in and for Fairfield County, on the 23d day of July next, at ten o'clock forenoon, to try the truth of the facts alledged in the Libel of Ebenezer Jones, against two schooners, one of seventy tons burthen, & the other fifteen tons burthen, and a small two-mast open boat and their cargoes, and several small boats, having on board goods, wares and merchandize, and the produce of this State, taken in Long-Island-Sound. Also to try the truth of the facts alledged in the libel of Isaac Jones, &c. against the schooner Starks, seventy-five tons burthen, and her cargo on board, consisting of wood, and two small boats having on board British goods, wares and merchandize; and one small boat having on board several sheep, all taken in Long-Island-Sound. Also, to try the truth of the facts alledged in the libel of Stephen Martin, and Reynold Finch, against a small sloop, and two schooners, and their cargoes on board, & several small boats, and their cargoes, taken as it is said, in carrying on illicit trade in Long-Island Sound. Also to try the truth of the facts alledged in the libel of Ebenezer Dayton, and Isaac Jones, against the sloop Theodora, about fifty tons burthen, Benjamin Bigelow, late master, loaded with lumber, passing, as it is said to some place in the power of the enemy. This public notice is given to all concerned.

Dated at Fairfield, June 29th 1782.

By order of the Judge.

DAVID BURR, Register.



*The Old Powder House—1814  
Stands today at the rear of Roger Ludlowe High School*

*Maritime Court Notice—to be holden  
July 23, 1782*

## LAW AND ORDER LEAGUE MEETING!!

Meetings of the Fairfield Law and Order League will be held on

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1885,

as follows:

In FAIRFIELD, at the Town House, at 3:30 o'clock, P. M., and

In SOUTHPORT, at Washington Hall, at 7:30 o'clock, P. M.,

All, both ladies and gentlemen, who are interested in keeping our villages quiet, orderly and law-abiding, whether members of the League or not, are invited to be present.

J. T. McALPINE, Secretary.

*Hand bill of Fairfield's  
Law and Order League*



in the time of negotiation, & that Mr. Sayre should be the bearer of such an insulting proclamation, & at such a time, that the said gentleman was obliged to quit the town when the enemy left it. His whole family were obliged to go with him, leaving the greatest part of their substance behind, which became fuel for the flames, indiscriminately scattered by the rear guards. The reply which General Tryon made to Mr. Sayre when he asked to go with him was, 'You may go on board the ship, sir, but I cannot promise you any help or assistance.'

The Church of England building was consumed, but by whom, or at what time, I am unable to say.

Unconnected with them, unsolicited on my part, through the intercession of Mr. Sayre, my house & property, received a protection in General Tryon's own handwriting. A sentinel was placed there some part of the time. But sad experience convinced me to how little purpose all this was. My property was plundered, my house and furniture all consumed, though a lady was so kind as to show them the protection, which, like others, was torn in pieces by the Yagers.

Our friend Joseph Bartram was shot through the breast; old Mr. Solomon Sturgis, an Irish servant of Mr. Penfield, & a negro man belonging to Mr. Lewis, were put to death by the bayonet.

The distress of the poor was inexpressible. A most pleasant and delightful town in flames! What a scene did the 8th of July present!

But I must forbear. Everything I have written you may depend upon as fact; my pen has not been guided by prejudice whatever my feelings are; & should you publish this letter, every reader may be assured that there was not the least diversion from what actually took place upon this melancholy occasion.

Yours, &c.,  
Andrew Elliott.

The letter which follows was written by Priscilla (Lothrop) Burr of Fairfield, Connecticut, wife of Gershom Burr, to her sister-in-law Helen (Hobart) Lothrop of Plymouth, Massachusetts, wife of Dr. Nathaniel Lothrop. It was presented to the Society in 1932 by Sarah and Joanna Williams of Yonkers, New York, great-great-granddaughters of Mrs. Burr. The fact that the letter fills both sides of the leaf upon which it is written, that it is not signed and that it bears no address leads to the conclusion that it is incomplete and that a second leaf carrying signature and address is missing.

Fairfield August 10th, 1779

My Dear Sister:

We this morning received a letter from Mr. Beadle, with one inclosed from my Brother and yourself, wherein we find your anxiety to be very great on our account. I am in hopes before this you have a letter from my Brother which will show you that we escaped from the hands of those cruel monsters. We were in a great alarm on Sunday the day the enemy passed us on their way to New Haven, as

they came very near our Shore but went by about 9 o'clock that Night. On Monday we heard they were landed at New Haven but seemed to be the general opinion amongst us that their next object would be New London. On Tuesday forenoon Captain Grenell came in to see us as he commonly did, and advised me to send directly for a team, and get some of our most valuable effects out of the way. I sent Dolphin directly to Norfield (for you must know this was in the midst of Harvest) Mr. Smith who lives upon our lower farm came down that Night, stayed in town and in the morning took with him, two beds and all the best of our clothing with considerable of bedding, but before he left town  $\frac{1}{2}$  an hour we were all in the greatest confusion that is possible, found that the fleet was making for us with all speed. The evening before we spent very agreeably at my Brother's, at a Harvest feast, heard there that they were embarked from New Haven. Still could not think they would visit us, thought we were not of importance enough, to command the attention of so large a fleet, that instead of coming this way they would go eastward, altho I can't say but I felt very uneasy, for I was very confident that I heard cannon the greater Part of the Night, but our People laughed at me and said it was thunder, and so it passed till after breakfast but had it have been a clear morning, we should have had them upon us by three o'clock, but happy for us it was very foggy, and by that means they stretched by the town as far as Greens Farms. We left the town by ten o'clock, except the Servants with Mrs. Hughes who stayed behind until they had landed, in order to Secret things in the house, as we had not the least thought of their making such desolation, as they did not burn any at New Haven except stores, and some at West Haven. We went in the first Place to Mr. H. Bradley's, and there stayed till the cannonading began, and then set out for Parson Sherwood's where we arrived before sun down, and found a house full of Refugees from Greenfield and Greens Farms, but it is impossible for me to describe to you the trials of that Shocking Night, altho we were 10 miles out yet we could see the flames very plain, and the house we were in appeared all of a blaze. Mill River was burnt directly after we got out of the chaise, and not more than an hour from that, we began to see the town on fire, but my Distress for Property was nothing, compared to that for my Sister for I know her determination before I left home which was very much against the inclination of her friends, but what did she not Suffer. The day after the town was destroyed (we) went down to see the ruins, and will you believe me when I tell you that I should scarcely have known her. She was treated very rudely indeed, and the first words that she heard before she knew they were in the house were that this was a fine place for Plunder, they then proceeded directly into her bedroom where she herself was, and fell to stripping and tearing her curtains in pieces, and then with their bayonets cut and slashed her dressing glass, with the Bureau Table. She desired them not to behave in such a manner, the draws were not locked, if they wanted any thing there to open the Draws. They Damned her, and bid



her open them her self. They then robbed her of her buckles and searched her pockets, took her sleeve buttons and everything she had about her, for they so often came to search her, that she at last took her pockets off and gave them up to them the captain of the fire company, was that little infamous Tom Chapman of Stratford, he was kind enough to place a couple of sentinels at my Sister, after he saw how She was used, as he often had been there in company with the Magistrate. He expressed great surprise to find Mrs. Burr in town, but said he would do everything in his power to protect her as She had stayed. He went out and brought Governor Tryon in with him, who demanded all my Brother's papers. Mrs. Burr told him there were Papers of no consequence to him as they only concerned Mr. Burr's own private affairs, such as deeds of his own estate. His answer was that them was just what he wanted, for he intended to have the Estates before long. He then left her for some time, and came back to the house again about day light. He then asked her for a pen and ink set down & wrote a Protection for her house, the meeting house, & church. And also the Reverend Eliot's house by the over persuasion of Mr. Sayre, our church Priest. My Sister then thought her house Secure, till between 8 & 9 o'clock which was the time the main body left the town, but they left a detachment of 400 Hessians and Tories behind them, who came to her house, abused her most shamefully, by insulting her, told her She had a gold watch, and then went to searching her again, ordered her if she had a mind to save anything, to do it, in so many minutes, for her house was to be fired directly. She told them She had Protection from G. Tryon. They Damned her and tore it to pieces out of her hand, and instantly set fire to her house, & swore to her if she offered to put it out they would stab her to the heart, and stayed till it was so far gone as twas impossible to do anything to save it, & at that Same time, the other Building, that the Sham Protection was giving for, were all consumed. Our Tories was treated with no more respect than other People & as for Mrs. Rowland, and Mrs. Spaulding, they were used most shockingly. They abused old Mrs. Rowland very much, dragged her about by the hair of her head, tore her clothes off and swore they would kill her. The poor old lady stayed by the over Persuasion of Mrs. Spaulding who thought it in her Power, to save the town if She pleased, they murdered old Mr. S. Sturgis & old Mr. J. Gold in a most inhuman manner. Poor Fairfield, how does She Sit Solitary with heaps of naked Chimneys Seemingly left as monuments to bewail the Loss of those Pleasant habitations which once was there Support.

Taken from—Bulletin of the Connecticut Historical Society—August, 1936.

Reports from Frank Moore's Diary of the Revolution—New London Gazette, August 4, 1779 and from William Wheeler's Journal (Black Rock). Reverend Timothy Dwight in his "Travels" also reported on the destruction. These accounts follow:

From The New London Gazette:—

While the British were advancing on the town the militia gathered their small forces as quickly as possible on the hills above the green. 'Here, with a small field piece & their muskets, for awhile they annoyed the advancing enemy with round & grape-shot, but the latter formed & quickly advanced, while the Fairfield militia retired to an eminence commanding Beach-lane & the Green, where, joined by a number from the surrounding country, they continued to assail the invaders, who were also considerably galled by the cannon from Fort Black Rock on Grover's Hill. Parties of women & children fled to Greenfield Hill, but a few women remained to protect their houses & valuables. Hessians in small companies were first let loose to plunder & for rapine. Every house was entered, desks, trunks, chests & closets were opened, & everything of value taken. Women were robbed of their buckles, rings, bonnets & aprons. Looking glasses, china & furniture were slashed & broken to pieces, & women insulted with the foulest language, their lives threatened & bayonets presented to their breasts.

A party of refugees, in revenge for their confiscated estates, plundered & destroyed whatever they could find, but were not so abusive to the women.

The British came last; & while some of their officers seemed to pity the misfortunes of the people, made the excuse that they had no other way to subdue the country. Some of the troops were exceedingly abusive to the women; but by a vigorous resistance the women protected themselves, although obliged to submit to the most indelicate & rough treatment, & some continued to bear the scars & bruises of their assailants.

About an hour before sunset the burning of the houses & buildings began. The house of Josiah Jennings was the first set on fire. In the evening the house of Elijah Abel, Esqr., Sheriff of the county, with a few other; & during the night several houses on the main street were set on fire. Entreaties from men & women to Tryon, begging him to spare their houses, were joined by the Rev. Mr. Sayer, a clergyman zealous in the cause of the British from the S. P. G. The house of Mr. Thaddeus Burr, writer of the above description, was spared by Tryon's consent, who treated the inhabitants with as much humanity as his errand would admit. At sunrise several houses were standing; but in about two hours the conflagration became general. The burning pirates carried on their business with horrible alacrity, headed by two or three persons, who were born and bred in the neighboring towns. All the town from the bridge towards Stratford to the Mill River (a few houses excepted) was consumed.

About eight o'clock the enemy sounded a retreat. The Congregational meeting-house and the Church of England, which had been spared by the entreaties of Mr. Sayer, afforded some pleasure amidst our woe; but the rear guard, consisting of a band of the vilest that was ever let loose among men, set fire to everything which General Tryon had left. The large and elegant meeting-house, the minister's houses, Mr. Burr's house, and other houses which had received protection were burned. They tore Tryon's



papers of protection in pieces, abused the women shamefully and ran off in very disgraceful manner. Happily our men came in and extinguished the flames in several houses, so that we were not entirely destroyed. This rear were chiefly Germans, called Yagers, who carried small rifle guns and fought in a skulking manner, much like our Indians.

The enemy sent a row-galley to silence the fort on Grover's Hill, between which & the fort a constant firing was kept up all night. Attempts were made to take it by parties of troops, but Lieutenant Jarvis, who had but twenty-three men besides himself, bravely and obstinately defended it. The militia followed the incendiaries to the place of embarkation, where they galled them considerably. About twelve o'clock the cruel foe embarked, and about 2 P.M. set sail for Long Island. Many killed on both sides. Several prisoners were carried away, but no one of distinction. Old Mr. Solomon Sturgis, an Irish servant of Mr. Penfield, and an old negro man belonging to Mr. Jonathan Lewis, were put to the bayonet. Mr. Job Bartram was shot through the breast, the ball came out just under his shoulder-blade; he fought bravely, as did also others.

Instead of sailing to New London, as it had been thought they would, on the morning of the 8th the British landed at Mill River (Southport), where a small battery had been raised, where they plundered and burned eight houses and out-buildings, destroying furniture and whatever they could lay their hands upon.

They then cast anchor off Compo and landed at Green's Farms, where they burned thirteen houses, with their church.

#### From William Wheeler's Journal:—

July 7th, at 7 in the morning, the fog clearing off, the enemy's fleet, just returned from plundering New Haven, appeared. Three guns announced an alarm—everyone busy in moving or throwing their things out of doors—about 11 o'clock 1,600 regular troops landed at the foot of the bar on town beach. Isaac Jarvis commanded the battery at the point of Grover's Hill, Black Rock, who, as soon as the British turned to go up the beach lane fired a 12-pounder with ball & grape-shot, & kept it going till it was so hot you could hardly bear your hand thereon. As they approached the parade, a field piece let go a ball & grapes through them. I was at that time on Toilsome Hill, having been just about with my father to drive cattle to our woodland, to keep them from the enemy. As we arrived at Black Rock it was with no pleasant sensation we heard the firing back towards Barlow's-plain, and seemed to be in danger of being hemmed in—this, however, we prevented by taking up the upper bridge. Black Rock people soon assembled on Grover's hill, among whom were several females, where we could see the enemy marching up. A continual cracking from near Round-hill was kept up the remainder of the afternoon, & sometimes from a field piece. The first building that appeared on fire was the guard-house at Kenzy's Point; next one at Barlow's-plain. You might from Black Rock see the fire shine through the windows & presently the fire on the outside. The town burnt all night—a cloud seemed to remain

fixed in the west, from which issued frequent flashes of lightning; this joined to many a column from the flaming buildings, & frequent discharges of cannon & musketry on the British guard placed around the town; the poor inhabitants, with no shelter many of them but the canopy of heaven, with no clothing but what they had on; wives separated from their husbands, & exposed to the indecencies of an infuriated soldiery, rendered truly diabolical by the spirits they found in plenty in the town, formed a scene altogether so shocking that Fairfield will never see again, nor her present silken sons & daughters can form any conception of. There were some instances of great bravery among the inhabitants of Fairfield. A Mr. Tucker fired from his shop on the parade at the whole army only a few rods distant, & was wounded by them in the shoulder & taken prisoner. Mr. Parsons fired from a chamber into the road & killed a British officer; then running out the back door made his escape. The enemy coming into the house found an old negro bedridden; they said it was him, he declared it was not; they put the bayonet into him & burnt the house, next day my brother saw him about half burnt up & a beam lying on him. Parsons after this taking a prisoner was conducting him away, when he was taken prisoner himself . . . Joseph Gold, a very old man & feeble, going off, stopped at a spring to drink; they commanded him to stop; he would not; they shot him. Several women stayed in town to save their houses; but were so frightened, they said they would never stay again. Jonathan Bulkley, living on the Green, stayed, got a protection from General Tryon & saved his house & three adjoining houses . . . July 8th. A Row-Galley, mounting an 18-pounder of brass lay  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile from the Battery, & fired upon it, sending some shot over the hill; & the Battery firing on them, & hallooing with a speaking trumpet to turn their broadside towards them & they would give it to them. Isaac Jarvis commanded at the Battery. Had he been a coward 10 more houses would have been burnt; Squire's, Burr's, Silliman's, Halberton's, Fowler's, Chauncey's, Widow Wheeler's Ichabod Wheeler's, E. Wheeler's, Bartram's.

About noon the enemy returned on board at Kenzy's Point, & were pursued through the burning houses by the enraged inhabitants, and at Sandy Lane the roar of the small arms was continued like the roll of a drum. Our people would have paid them as they were embarking had they not levelled all the stone walls near the shore where our men might get behind, & drew up their armed vessels to keep off the Americans. It is said the Fairfield people fought much better than they did at New Haven or Norwalk, which was burnt soon after . . . About 40 of the enemy were found dead & 8 or 10 of ours. No doubt many were wounded & carried off with them, for about a fortnight after, when on guard at the point, I observed the remains of one washed out of the sand where they had buried him. Eighty dwelling-houses, besides barns, stores, etc., were consumed. A Presbyterian meeting-house, Episcopalian Church & a Court-house, Green's Farms with their meeting-house & Mill river were burnt at the same time. Eleven houses were left standing,



some of them extinguished by our people, who followed close at the heels of the English, & afforded a refuge to the poor inhabitants from a hard succeeding winter, the most terrible but one (1740) seen since the settlement of New England. The severe cold quieted in some measure our fears from an attack, & made the enemy in New York tremble in their turn for fear our men should march on the ice & attack them—and affording us a long season of excellent sleighing. Thus graciously did a kind Providence favour & defend us from an unrelenting foe, till they were tired out by the contest . . . The Sabbath after Mr. Eliot preached (from 'Our holy & our beautiful house, &c.') at Holland Hill, where Fairfield people assembled, not daring to meet near the shore for fear of being taken prisoners, so fearful were they then & long after, they could hardly sleep in their beds. My father had a place for his silver tankard & some silver therein in a stone wall. Many a time he has gone in a dark night with his gun to see if no enemy's boat came over the beach. Sometimes very few guards at the Battery or anywhere else. Strange that the enemy did not burn us in the four long years that the war lasted after this time. I listed as a soldier in the Guard (Upper Wharf) from May 16th till July 7th, when Fairfield was burnt, being 16 years of age. We had a double fortified 3 pounder, which sent a shot over a boat of the enemy's, sounding at the broken place of the beach.

It is related that when Fairfield was attacked by the British, Colonel Whiting, the Commandant, having withdrawn the Americans to the Round Hill, north of the village, called for a captain & 30 men to volunteer for the purpose of reconnoitering the enemy; that Capt. Thomas Nash immediately stepped forth, followed by more than 100 men. The Colonel would allow only 30 to go. However, more fell in after they left the hill. Capt. Nash advanced to the fence north of the street, near where the meeting-house now stands, & ordered his men to lie behind the fence in the tall vegetation, until the enemy were near the centre of the street, when, as he gave the word, they were to rise & fire, load and fire, & then run. This they did with such effect, & so unexpectedly, that none of his party were injured until they began to ascend the rising ground towards the north, where one was killed. Afterwards, when a squad of the enemy approached to burn his house at Green's Farms, he alone, or with but little help, dragged the company field piece to a rising ground near the house, loaded it with grape, & fired upon them. They, suspecting he had a company to sustain him in so daring an act, retreated, & thus his home was saved. It is yet standing.

At another time, being on a scout in the night, with only three men, he discovered a whale-boat secreted on the shore, which he thought indicated an enemy near. He therefore stove in the boat, & searched for the foe. Perceiving a faint light from the window of a cabin in a cornfield, he ordered his army of three to pass rapidly round the cabin, making all the noise they could with their muskets, against the building, by which the inmates deemed themselves surrounded by a real force. Capt. Nash

then approached the window & told them to hand out their arms, & he would spare their lives. They complied & handed out 16 muskets, which he secured & told them to lie down until morning, when it appeared that he & his three men had surrounded & taken 15 Tories & one British soldier.

#### *Captain Jarvis's Guard at Black Rock Fort*

Captain Isaac Jarvis, Colonel Elijah Hill, Captain David Jarvis, Chauncey Downs, Ezra Wheeler, David Sherwood, John Lyon, Daniel Wilson, Silas Hawley, Joseph Gold, Samuel Patchen, Nehemiah Burr, John Meeker, Nathan Jennings, John Wilson, Huldah Mason, James McNay, Nehemiah Rose, William Sturges, William Hawley, Abraham Parritt, Daniel Burr, Benjamin Meeker, Robert Walch, Nathaniel Wilson, Jesse Burr, Fairweather Brothwell.

This guard not only guarded the fort but Penfield Mills, the fort overlooking the mills which were near the mouth of the Unquowa River. These all important mills were well looked after, as James Penfield baked several barrels of flour daily for the army. Besides the guards at the fort a home guard was stationed around them night & day.

From Dr. Dwight:—

On the evening of the 7th, while the town was in flames, a thunderstorm overspread the heavens just as night came on. The conflagration of near two hundred houses illuminated the earth, the skirts of the clouds, & the waves of the Sound with a union of gloom & grandeur, at once inexpressibly awful & magnificent. The sky speedily was hung with the deepest darkness wherever the clouds were not tinged by the melancholy lustre of the flames. At intervals the lightning blazed with a livid & terrible splendor. The thunder rolled above. Beneath, the roaring of the fires filled up the intervals with a deep & hollow sound, which seemed to be the protracted murmur of the thunder, reverberated from one end of heaven to the other. Add to this convulsion of the elements, the dreadful effect of vindictive & wanton devastation, the trembling of the earth, the sharp sound of muskets occasionally discharged, the groans here & there of the wounded & dying, & the shouts of triumph, then place before your eyes crowds of miserable sufferers, mingled with bodies of the militia, and from the neighboring hills, taking a farewell prospect of their property & their dwellings, their happiness & their hopes, & you will form a just but imperfect picture of the burning of Fairfield. It needed no great effort of imagination to believe that the final day had arrived, & that amid the funeral darkness the morning would speedily dawn, to which no night would ever succeed; the graves yield up their inhabitants; & the trial commence, at which is to be settled the destiny of man.

The following elegy on the burning of Fairfield, was written by Col. Humphreys, in 1779, on the spot where the town stood:

Ye smoking ruins, marks of hostile ire,  
Ye ashes warm, which drink the tears that flow,  
Ye desolated Plains my voice inspire,  
And give soft music to the song of woe.  
How pleasant, Fairfield, on th' enraptured sight,



Rose thy tall spires, and op'd thy social halls,  
How oft my bosom beat with pure delight  
At yonder spot where stand they darken'd walls!  
But there the voice of mirth resounds no more.  
A silent sadness thro' the streets prevails;  
The distant main alone is heard to roar,  
And hollow chimneys hum with sudden gales—  
Save where scorch'd elms th' untimely foliage shed,  
Which rustling, hovers round the faded green—  
Save where, at twilight, mourners frequent tread,  
Mid recent graves, o'er desolation's scene.  
How chang'd the blissful prospect when compar'd  
These glooms funereal, with thy former bloom,  
Thy hospitable rights when Tryon Shar'd  
Long ere he seal'd thy melancholy doom.  
That impious wretch with coward voice decreed  
Defenseless domes and hallow'd fanes, to dust;  
Beheld, with sneering smile, the wounded bleed,  
And spurr'd his bands to rapine, blood, and lust.  
Vain was the widow's, vain the orphan's cry,  
To touch his feelings, or to soothe his rage—  
Vain the fair drop that roll'd from beauty's eye,  
Vain the dumb grief of supplicating age.  
Could Tryon hope to quench the patriot flame,  
Or make his deeds survive in glory's page?  
Could Britons seek of savages the same;  
Or deem it conquest, thus the war to wage?  
Yes, Britons scorn the councils of the skies,  
Extend wide havoc, spurn th' insulted foes;  
Th' insulted foes to tenfold vengeance rise,  
Resistance growing as the danger grows.  
Red in their wounds, and pointing to the plain,  
The visionary shapes before me stand—  
The thunder bursts, the battle burns again,  
And kindling fires encrimson all the strand.  
Long dusky wreaths of smoke, reluctant driv'n,  
In black'ning volumes o'er the landscape bend:  
Here the broad splendor blazes high to heav'n,  
There umber'd streams in purple pomp ascend.  
In fiery eddies, round the tott'ring walls,  
Emitting sparks, the lighter fragments fly;  
With frightful crash the burning mansion falls,  
The works of years in glowing embers lie.  
Tryon, behold thy sanguine flames aspire,  
Clouds ting'd with dies intolerably bright.  
Behold, well pleas'd the village wrapt in fire,  
Let one wide ruin glut thy ravish'd sight!  
Ere fades the grateful scene, indulge thine eye,  
See age and sickness, tremulously slow  
Creep from the flames—See babes in torture die,  
And mothers swoon in agonies of woe.  
Go, gaze enraptur'd with the mother's tear,  
The infant's terror, and the captive's pain.  
Where no bold bands can check thy curst career;  
Mix fire with blood on each unguarded plain!  
These be thy triumphs! this thy boasted fame!  
Daughters of mem'ry raise the deathless song!  
Repeat thro' endless years his hated name,  
Embalm his crimes, and teach the world of our  
wrongs.

In Governor Tryon's official report to Lord Germain, Tryon regretted the conflagration of the two places of public worship at Fairfield. These he said "took fire unintentionally from

the flakes from the buildings". He then gave strict orders for the preservation of the church edifice in Norwalk where he took himself next.

The first entry in the First Church of Christ records following the burning is included here:

At a meeting of the Inhabitants of the First Society in Fairfield legally warned and held at the house of Mr. Jonathan Bulkley's in said Fairfield on Friday the 30th day of inst. July A.D. 1779.

Jonathan Sturges Esqr. was chosen Moderator for sd Meeting.

Voted that the Society Committee be Impowered to desire Mr. Eliot to appoint a place or places for public worship and in the mean time the Society Committee are to procure a place for the same.

Voted that the Society Committee be appointed to abate the Rates of those of the Society that are not able to pay the same.

Voted that this meeting be adjourned to the 2nd Friday of August next at the house of Mr. Jonathan Bulkley at 4 of the clock in the afternoon.

and from the statistical records of the same Church:

The above Baptisms, private ones excepted, were administered in the meeting house which was consumed by fire July 8, 1779.

After which melancholy event—Baptisms continued to be administered in the homes and congregation met at private houses.

It is believed that much of the incendiarism in Connecticut in 1779 was the work of the American Loyalists or Tories. There were probably nearly as many colonists enlisted under the triple crossed flag of Great Britain as under the striped standard of the Continental Congress.

The next day, July 9, ironically as it may seem, was one of rejoicing for the Fairfield folk for Major Talmadge had made his way from White Plains and reached Fairfield early that morning to camp upon the Village Green.

In the State Library there is a letter written by Henry Laurens, President of the Continental Congress and it is included here.

Philadelphia, July 17, 1779 to Major General Lincoln of South Carolina

The American Duke d'Alba, Tryon has been brandishing the torch in Connecticut, has burnt Fairfield and part or the whole of New Haven, made some plunder, distressed Women and Children and retired again to his Ships, many particulars ought to have been published in Dunlap's paper today, but he has neglected them . . . had Georgia been defended we should at this moment have been engaged in a General Treaty, the Capture of that State has cost us a Campaign of blood and Conflagration.

From: Benjamin De Forest Curtiss Collection  
Loaned By: Sarah Whitman Trumbull Chapter  
DAR—Watertown—No. 13.



The people of Fairfield began again to provide a means of living and made their way to new homes—they used buildings which may have been warehouses which had not been destroyed or perhaps an old outbuilding of some sort. Their spirits were not crushed and before long they started building simple homes on the old foundations. The energy of the town was renewed and the principles of these people continued to show in the Town Meeting minutes.

A Town Meeting Legally warned and held in Fairfield August 31st: 1779:

Voted yt this Meeting disapprove of importing goods into this Town that are plundered from the Inhabitants on Long Island.

Voted yt Thaddeus Burr, Esqr. write to his Excellency ye Governor of this State & Council of safety & inform them of this practice & Especially of one Bishop lately belonging to Hartford importing goods here from Long Island & selling them at Vendue without labelling the same.

Voted that this Meeting be adjourned to the third Tuesday of September next at one o'clock in ye afternoon.

The shadows of War continued.

During the same month as the above meeting, Governor Trumbull issued a call for contributions for the relief of the sufferers at New Haven, Norwalk and Fairfield, and a County Convention was held in Redding. Representatives from Fairfield included Thaddeus Burr Esq., Messrs. Peter Perry, Ebenezer Silliman, Samuel Odell, Nathan Seeley, Thomas Nash, Joseph Wakeman, James Bennett, David Wakeman, Hezekiah Bradley, Albert Sherwood, Daniel Duncan, Benjamin Dean, Ephraim Lyon, Nathan Wheeler, Jr., David Silliman, L. Nathan Williams.

In the following October when the General Assembly met in Hartford and Thaddeus Burr presented a Memorial from the inhabitants requesting some compensation for the great loss received by the burning.

A Town Meeting Legally warned and held in Fairfield, October 18th, 1779

Voted yt Sam'l Squire and Sam'l Wakeman Esqrs. be a Committee to prepare a Memorial to the General Assembly in their present Sessions at Hartford praying said assembly to appoint a Committee to ascertain the Losses the Inhabitants of this Town sustained by the enemy in July last past by burning and plundering said Town.

And that the assembly will be pleased to abate the Taxes of those that were sufferers by the enemy.

Voted yt Doct'r David Rogers, Messrs. Seth Sherwood, Benjamin Banks, Jr., Hez. Bradley, Dan'll Bennett, Josiah Brinsmaide and Sam'l Thorp, Jr., be a Committee to provide Clothing for the

soldiers belonging to this Town who are in the Continental Service.

As the townspeople requested, a Committee was appointed to estimate the losses of every individual in the town—and to abate the taxes either in part or in the whole.

The War went on and the battles continued to rage in other parts of the land. With each event a spirit of retaliation for the burning of the town crept into the breasts of the inhabitants. The hard winter of 1780 fortunately helped to allay the fears of the Fairfielders for a return visit of the enemy.

A Town Meeting held in Fairfield Monday the 27th day of December 1779.

The former Moderator, Thaddeus Burr, Esqr. being Present.

Voted & Agreed yt Ephm. Jennings, Ebenezer Silliman, Nathan Seeley, Amos Hubbell, Joseph Wakeman, Joseph Bennett, Benjamin Banks, Jr., Seth Sherwood, Dan'll Duncan, Dan'll Andrews and Dan'll Bennett be a Committee to provide Clothing for the soldiers belonging to this Town in the *Continental Army*.

Four companies of 50 men each for General Silliman's brigade were ordered to Greenwich for the defense of that place.

In February 1780, General Silliman was exchanged with other prisoners for British Prisoners. This story is told by Mrs. Silliman in her diary.

The British stood out a long time, but at last consented if in addition to Judge Jones they might have one Washburn, a noted bad character, a Tory, that we had taken during the war, if he might be put with Jones, it might make weight. This was finally agreed on, & Judge Jones was sent for from Middletown, & a vessel hired by us to take him in, & the same to bring your father if they would let him come. We agreed if they obtained him, two flags should be hoisted when they returned, that we might certainly know whether he was coming. The vessel sailed with Judge Jones about eight o'clock in the morning from our harbour. They had a fine wind, & I saw them go with great rapidity; & we hoped that in two or three days we should receive him, who had been so long separated from us. But about one o'clock we saw the same vessel returning; & to our surprise saw two flags; this we could not understand, as we knew they had not had time to go to New York. The fact was, the same day we were sending the Judge off, they at New York were sending off your father, & the vessels met. Their flag of truce hailed ours, & asked if they had Judge Jones on board? 'Yes. Well, we have Gen. Silliman too,' was the answer; & they soon boarded each other . . . When ours came in call of our fort & battery at Black Rock, one called to know if they had Gen. Silliman on board, he then leaped on deck, & waved his hat, at which there was so loud



a shout we heard them plainly at the house; then all the cannon was fired off; & the same took place when he landed at the wharf. It was very pleasing to us at the house, as well as to your father, to see such testimonials of joy at his return; many of the people waited on him to his house . . . After this a subaltern officer was at our house every night for a long time, & we had frequent alarms, & I was ever afterwards afraid of having the past disagreeable scene acted over again. The guard was ordered by the Governor. After this I don't remember that he ever went out on any campaign, but had the care as before, of all the coast in Fairfield County.

In March permission was given to the townspeople to carry grain, flour and provisions to the "eastward" in exchange for boards and glass for their new homes.

Money too was a problem for these people. Continental money fell from September 1, 1777 till March 1780 from full value to 40 to 1.

A Town Meeting Legally warned and held in Fairfield, June 19th A.D. 1780.

Voted yt Thaddeus Burr, Esqr. be moderator of this meeting.

Voted yt there be a Rate of one penny Lawful money on ye pound raised on all Polls and Rateable Estate of ye Inhabitants of this Town to be paid in Bills of Credit lately emitted at the Rate of forty for one: and yt ye Selectmen pay to each Soldier yt shall voluntarily enlist into the Continental service during the war or for three years the sum of ten pounds out of sd Rate: and ye remainder of sd Rate to defray ye necessary charges of ye Town.

If a person had \$1000 in 1777, it would have been worth \$25 in 1780.

A real depression was the result as one can well imagine.

The tax rate was payable in 1/2 pork and/or beef and the other half in flour that year.

The people demanded gold and silver or hard money as it was called and shop keepers refused to sell goods unless paid in coin.

Fairfield, however, with all this, still tried to carry its share of the needs for the Continental Army.

A Town Meeting Legally warned and held in Fairfield November 13th: Anno Domini 1780.

Voted that G. Selleck Silliman Esqr. be Moderator of this Meeting:

Voted yt the Tax granted by the Assembly in October Last past for the purpose of raising a Quantity of Provisions for the Continental Army &c. of six pence on the pound be raised in kind as stated by said Act.

Voted yt Mr. Nathan Seely, Major Elijah Abel, Moses Sherwood, George Burr Esqr., Mr. Daniel Duncan and Mr. David Silliman be the Persons to receive the Salt, procure Casks and receive the Provisions and inspect the same and to do everything

relating thereto required by an Act of the General Assembly passed in October last past: entitled an *Act for Collecting* and storing a *Quantity of Provisions* for the use of the *Continental Army* and the forces raised for the defense of the state.

Voted yt the present selectmen be a Committee to Class the Inhabitants and to do everything required of them by ye Act & Resolve of the Last General Assembly for the purpose of raising Recruits for the Continental Army.

Voted that the Town Treasurer provide money Either by hiring upon Loan or otherways to purchase Clothing for the Soldiers in the Continental Army belonging to this Town, and deliver it to the Committee appointed to purchase said Clothing.

Also in November, Major Talmadge returned to Fairfield after a successful enterprise on Long Island, Caleb Brewster and others having assisted him. Much skirmishing and plundering continued in the community. There were raids by the Tories and the British, and retaliation by the Sons of Liberty. Moore's Diary of the Revolution tells us about a Mill raid on Mill River:

March 14th. Captain Hubbell of the Associated Loyalists, with his little band of true Englishmen, on the 28th of February, with four manned whaleboats, crossed the Sound to Compo, lying between Green's Farms, in the west parish of Fairfield, & landed his party. Being fired upon by the occupants of two guard houses, they attacked & drove their provincial occupants away. The militia of the neighborhood gathered quickly, & Hubbell with his men embarked & sailed towards Mill River on the "General Wolfe"; & on the morning of the 4th of March between 30 & 40 men manned the whaleboats & crossed to Kenzie's Point, where, leaving the boats with a safe guard, Captain Hubbell moved with the rest two miles up Mill River & destroyed two mills & about two hundred barrels of flour, collected there, as they were told, for the French at Rhode Island. After collecting a few sheep they returned to their boats. The mills belonged to the Perrys.

Supplies for the families of the soldiers as well as the soldiers themselves continued to be a worry.

A Town Meeting held in Fairfield on Thursday the 28th of December Anno Dom: 1780.

The former Moderator Jonathan Sturges, Esqr. being present.

Voted yt David Jennings 2d. be Constable ye year ensuing.

Voted yt John Squier 3d., Benjamin Banks, Jr., Wm. Bennett, Deliverance Bennett, Humphrey Ogden, Silv. Middlebrook, Peter Perry, John Silliman Andrews, Nathan Seely and John Hide be a Committee to supply necessities for ye families of such Soldiers as belong to this Town that are in the Continental Army.

On January 9, 1781 it was:



Voted yt the penny half penny tax ordered to be paid in provision by the General Assembly be paid in kind.

Also

Voted Sturges Lewis, Moses Sherwood, Eben'r Burr 2nd, Nathan Seeley, David Silliman & Dan'll Duncan be receivers of sd Tax.

A Town Meeting held in Fairfield & Legally warned March 13th: 1781

Voted yt the Selectmen be Appointed & impowered to hire for the deficient Classes such Recruits as are wanting to make out the Quota of soldiers in the Continental Army agreeable to an Act of Assembly made in October Last.

Voted yt Richard Hubbell Jr. be Appointed a purchasing Commissary for the Town of Fairfield to supply the Coast Guards with provisions of the Meat kind.

Voted yt the Rotation Guard that are Classed for Mr. Kinsey's point shall receive out of the Town Treasury three Shillings Lawful Money pr night for each and Every night they shall serve agreeable to the Direction of the Authority & Selectmen or their Substitute.

A Town Meeting Legally warned & held in Fairfield, March 27th, 1781.

Voted yt Thaddeus Burr Esqr. be Moderator of this Meeting.

Voted yt Major Elijah Abel take the minutes of the proceedings of this Meeting.

Voted yt Capt. Seth Silliman, David Allen, Doct'r David Rogers, Nathan Wheeler, David Morehouse and Jonth. Squier be a Committee in addition to them already appointed to purchase Clothing for Soldiers in ye Continental Army.

Voted yt ye Selectmen be desired to proportion out to the Committee for purchasing Clothing in the several societies the Quantity they are to procure, according to their List.

Voted yt Dan'll Banks & Josiah Brinsmaide be a Committee in addition to them already appointed to provide for soldiers families.

Voted yt Hez. Hubbell, Esqr. be agent for the Town to attend the assembly's Committee to lay in the claims for disputed Soldiers in the Continental Army.

Voted yt Maj'r Abel be the Officer to Conduct the Recruits for the Continental Army: to Danbury.

Voted yt the Resolves now read in this Meeting Draughted by Thads. Burr be desired to cause sd Resolves to be Printed or Inserted in the Publick News Papers.

There were also other matters of immediacy pressing these townspeople.

A Town Meeting Legally warned & held in Fairfield March 25th: 1782.

Voted yt G. Selleck Silliman Esqr. be Moderator of this meeting.

Voted yt a Committee be appointed to inquire into the number of the Deficient Classes (ordered to provide Men for the Continental Army the year last past for this Town) and the reasons of such deficiencies and to do everything in their power in a

Legal way to Oblige such Classes to do their Duty. Also voted yt Jonathan Sturges & George Burr Esqrs. and Mr. Seth Seely be a Committee for ye purpose aforesaid.

Voted yt a Committee be appointed to hire Men for one year to fill up the Quota of Soldiers required of this Town for the Continental Army—and yt Major Elijah Abel, Messrs. Albert Sherwood, Deliverance Bennett, Capt. Benja. Dean and Mr. David Silliman be a Committee for that purpose.

Voted and Agreed yt there be a Rate of one penny Lawful Money on the pound raised on all the Polls and Rateable Estate of the Inhabitants of this Town and that the same be Collected forthwith and paid to the Town Treasurer for ye purpose of hiring men for ye Continental Army.

Voted & Agreed yt ye Persons Chosen to Collect the Town Rate granted in Decm'r last past be Collectors of this Rate.

Voted yt ye Report of the Committee appointed ye last Town Meeting to agree upon some well Concerted & regulated Plan for keeping Coast Guards in this Town the present year; and now read in this Meeting is approved & accepted of by the Town Excepting out of said plan ye appointing of Capt. Josiah Lacy Captain of said guards.

And also at:

A Town Meeting Legally warned and held in Fairfield June 25th: 1782.

Voted yt G. Selleck Silliman Esqr. be Moderator of this Meeting.

Voted yt a Committee be appointed to inquire into the facts that laid a foundation for granting Two Executors against ye Town by the General Assembly at their last session respecting the deficiency of the Town in raising soldiers for Sundry Services the last year.

Voted & Agreed yt Gen'll Silliman, Jonth. Sturges Esqr., Thads. Burr Esqr. and Hez. Hubbell Esqr. be a Committee for ye purpose aforesaid.

Also voted yt ye Committee proceed in their Inquiries with all convenient speed and when they have completed the same that they inform the selectmen thereof yt they may warn a Town Meeting to hear the report of their Committee.

Voted & Agreed yt a Committee be appointed to hire men to fill up our Quota of ye Continental Army as reasonably as they can and that such men as have enlisted into ye Continental service this year or have been draughted for yt purpose and have joined the Army or have hired others to serve in their place be Entitled to receive the same bounty from ye Town as those shall have that may be hired by the Committee.

Voted yt Capt. Daniel Lacy, Capt. Andw. Wakeman, Capt. Jos. Bennett, Capt. George Burr, Capt. Dan'll Duncan and Mr. David Silliman be a Committee for purpose aforesaid and that they make report to the Selectmen of their doings on the fifth day of July next.

And too at:—

A Town Meeting Legally warned and held in Fairfield August 30th: A:D: 1782.



Voted yt Jonth. Sturges Esqr. be Moderator of this Meeting.

Voted yt ye doings of the County Convention held at Greenfield on the 12th Day of Instant August be approved of by the Town.

Voted yt a Committee be appointed carefully to inspect the behavior of Persons respecting the carrying on an illicit Trade with the enemies of the United States of America; and to assist the informing officers in their Duty in carrying into execution the Law of this state against *illicit Trade*.

Voted yt Mr. Nathan Seeley, Capt. Dan'll Lacy, Mr. Seth Seely, Mr. David Allen, Capt. Andw. Wakeman, Mr. Peter Perry, Mr. Albert Sherwood, Mr. Nehemiah Banks, Mr. Hezekiah Bradley, Capt. Ichabod Wheeler, Mr. Eben'r Banks, Mr. Stephen Gwier, Capt. Thos. Nash, Capt. Joseph Bennett, Mr. Moses Sherwood, Mr. Jehiel Whitehead, Mr. Sam'll Hazard, Mr. John Chapman, Mr. Dan'll Meeker of Greens Farms, Major Albert Chapman, Capt. Eben'r Hill, Capt. Elip't Thorp, Mr. Samuel Rowland, Capt. Ephm Lyon, Mr. Dan'll Andrews Jur., Mr. Nehemiah Beers, Mr. David Silliman, Mr. Sam'll Bennett, 3d., Mr. Elnath. Williams, Mr. Sam'll Thorp, Jur., Mr. David Bradley, Jr., Mr. Sam'll Taylor and Mr. Simon Couch by a Committee of inspection for ye purpose aforesaid.

Voted yt there be a Rate of one half penny on the pound raised on all the Polls and Rateable Estate of the Inhabitants of this Town to be applied to the sole purpose of making up deficiency of the penny Rate granted by the Town at their Meeting on the 25th day of March last past for the purpose of hiring men for the Continental Army and that the same Persons Chosen to Collect said penny Rate be Collectors of this Rate.

As well as at:—

A Town Meeting Legally warned and held in Fairfield September 25th: 1782.

Voted that Hezekiah Hubbell Esqr. be Moderator of this Meeting.

Voted and Agreed yt the Town will prefer a Memorial or Memorials to the next General Assembly respecting the *Dooms* against the Town for neglecting to raise men for the service of the Last year agreeable to the Acts of the General Assembly.

Voted & Agreed yt Elijah Abel and Hezekiah Hubbell Esqrs. be Agents for the Town to prefer a Memorial or Memorials to the General Assembly in October next respecting the *Dooms* against the Town for neglecting to raise or forward their Quota of new Men for the Service of the last year Agreeable to an Act of sd Assembly made and passed for yt purpose.

Voted yt the Town will Save the Sheriff harmless from any Damage & Costs that he may suffer by delaying to Serve Two Executions (he has against the Town) till the rising of ye General Assembly October Next.

1781 brought Cornwallis' surrender and the American triumph was at last real. In 1782 the provisional articles of peace were signed at Versailles and at Paris and on January 20, 1783

the final treaty of peace was concluded.

The Town Meeting minutes tell of the years immediately after the War. Fairfielders were anxious to do their part to help the needy but had little sympathy for those who had gone to the aid of the British or those who had failed to do their duty.

A Town Meeting Legally warned and held in Fairfield April 10th: A:D: 1783.

Voted yt Jonathan Sturges Esqr. be Moderator of this Meeting.

The Inhabitants being called principally for the purpose of Considering what measures they would wish to have taken with respect to those Persons who during the war between Great Britain & America have gone to and joined the enemy and put themselves under their protection.

The question was put whether this Meeting is willing that any of those Persons who have gone to and joined the enemy and put themselves under the protection as aforesaid should be permitted to return to and reside in this Town and passed in the negative.

Voted yt a Committee be appointed to remove all such Persons from this Town who are now in it or may hereafter come into it, who have gone to and joined the enemy and put themselves under their protection during the war between Great Britain and the United States of America.

Also voted yt David Allen, Daniel Osborn, Capt. Thomas Nash, Albert Sherwood, Daniel Lacey, Daniel Wilson, Capt. Josiah Bennett, Moses Sherwood, Nathan Seeley, Ezra Seely, Hezekiah Hubbell, Esqr., Nehemiah Banks, Colo. Jonathan Dimon, Dudley Baldwin Esqr., Ebenezer Banks, Capt. Benja. Dean, John Squier 3d., Joseph Smith, Daniel Andrews, Jr., Capt. Ephraim Lyon, Zubulon Fanton, Nathaniel Seeley 3d., David Silliman, Nathan Wheeler, Jr., Samuel Wakeman Esqr., Samuel Bennett 3d., Robert Wilson and Peter Perry be a Committee for the purpose of aforesaid.

Then at:

A Town Meeting held in Fairfield May 14th: 1783.

The Former Moderator G. Selleck Silliman Esqr. being present.

Voted yt a Memorial be preferred to ye General Assembly now sitting at Hartford respecting those persons yt have gone to and joined the enemy and put themselves under their protection during the War between Great Britain and the United States of America and have already returned or may here after come back to reside among us.

Voted yt the Memorial drawn and now read in this Meeting by Dudley Baldwin Esqr. be preferred to the General Assembly.

Voted yt G. Selleck Silliman Esqr. the Moderator of this Meeting be desired to sign said Memorial in behalf of the Town and forward and lay the same before the General Assembly now sitting at Hartford.

And at:—



A Town Meeting Legally warned and held in Fairfield June 26th, 1783.

Voted yt G. Selleck Silliman Esqr. be Moderator of this Meeting.

The Town taking into Consideration the Distress to which a number of the Inhabitants are reduced by the burning and plundering of the enemy during the late War with Great Britain and the great Injury done the Town thereby and that it is brought on the Town during the Course of a War undertaken for the Defense and Security of the Common Liberties of the State in which it was understood and expected that the whole Body should bear the Extraordinary Burdens accidentally thrown on any particular part and Considering that it is altogether just so to be: have there upon agreed and voted that Jonathan Sturges Esqr. be Agent for the Town to make use of such Measures by Memorial to the General Assembly or otherwise to obtain redress of the Town's grievances in this behalf and for a repair of the Damages done by the enemy to be made to the individual Sufferers; Excepting to those sufferers who are known to be inimical to the Liberties and Independence of the United States of America.

Voted yt George Burr Esqr., Doctor David Rogers, Mr. Richard Hubbell, Jur. and Mr. Joseph Hide be a Committee to designate and make out a List of the sufferers of this Town who are friendly to the Liberties and Independence of the United States of America within the meaning of the foregoing vote and deliver the same to the Agent of the Town.

Voted and Agreed yt Mr. Israel Bibbins be Collector of State Taxes the present year in the room of Mr. Richard Hubbell, Jr.

And too at:—

A Town Meeting Legally warned and held in Fairfield August 18th: 1783.

Voted yt Gold Selleck Silliman, Esqr. be Moderator of this Meeting.

This Meeting taking into consideration the Dangers and inconveniences that the Town are exposed to, now the War is brought to a close; arising principally from the Numbers of Persons, of disorderly ungoverned dangerous and vicious conversation, who are frequently thrusting themselves in, and endeavoring to gain a settlement in the Town. It is therefore resolve and voted that the civil Authority and Selectmen of the Town (whom we conceive to be vested with full Power and Authority to prevent such mischiefs and Dangers) be desired and requested to put the Law respecting those matters into vigorous Execution. And that the Selectmen be desired and directed, diligently to inquire after all Strangers, and other transient Persons whatever, and from whencesoever they have come or shall hereafter come, that have come into the Town, & whom there is reason to suppose intend to remain among us, who come within the above descriptions, or who are Persons dangerous in their political principles to the Town or the state and forthwith to warn every such Person to depart out of the Town and to cause all such as do not, to be prosecuted according to Law. And that all Persons that were formerly Inhabitants here, that have been so long gone

from this to any other Town or State, as that they ought to be presumed to have gained a settlement there, who come within any of the above descriptions and that have or shall return to live in this Town again, shall be treated in the same manner.

The Peace had been made final but there were the standing troops still to be cared for and this order was issued:

To the Sheriff of Fairfield County, his Deputy or to Either of the Constables of the Town of Fairfield within said County

Greetings:

Whereas the Civil authority and Selectmen of Said Fairfield at a meeting held in said Fairfield on the 30th day of December last past did appoint Nehemiah Banks as a Barrack-Master for the Town of Said Fairfield and did there and then designate a number of families in said Fairfield to receive a number of Soldiers now in winter quarters in said Fairfield into their houses and did also order the said Barrack-Master to put the troops into the houses designated by said authority subscribing that several of the Persons designated by said authority and Selectmen hath refused to receive said troops designated to them as aforesaid whereby the said troops are not provided for according to law . . .

These are therefore in the name of the Governor and Company of State of Connecticut to Command you forthwith to impress the following Rooms or apartments in the Dwelling houses of the Persons hereafter named viz from Nathaniel Adams one Room or apartment, from John Hide, Jr. one Do\* from Eben. Redfield, one Do from Joshua Oysterbanks, one Do from Daniel Burr, Jr., one Do from Moses Sherwood, one Do from Thad. Whitlock, one Do from Jacob White, one Do from Jean Ogden, one Do from Peter Perry one Do—one Do from David Barlow and Do from Elizabeth Hull.

And you are to take those rooms that are suitable and convenient for the accommodation of Said troops and cause the said troops to be put therein according to the Directions of the said Barrack-Master hereof you are not to fail and Due return make.

Dated at Fairfield the 1st day of January A.D. 1783.

George Burr, Justice of Peace

The entries in William Wheeler's Journal for this period help us to see that troubled day of July 7, 1779 and the reoccurring difficulties which followed for the next few years. These are the entries just as they appear:

From William Wheeler's Fairfield Journal, Ser 2 Vol. 1-5 1740-1844. State Library in Hartford

July 7, 1779—Seven in the morning the fog clearing off the enemy fleet just returned from plundering N. Haven appeared. Their guns announced an alarm. 1600 regular troops about 11 o'clock on that day land at the foot of the

\* Do means ditto.



bar on Town beach. As they approached the Green a field piece (6 pounder) let slip a ball and a bunch of grapes down the lane by the burying place and then retracted till they got to round hill top.

July 8—A row Galley with 18 pounder brass lay firing  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile from ye Battery and the battery on them—some shot went over Grover's Hill. About noon the Enemy firing the jail, Court and Meeting House returned on board at Kensey's point under cover of a cannonade from their shipping—leaving 40 dead of their own and 8 or 10 of ours. Hogs, sheep, dead men, flaming houses or stacks of chimney met the eye at every step—several women stayed in town the whole time. 80 dwelling houses besides stores, barns were consumed.

July 8—Greens Farms with the Meeting house and Mill River Village were burnt at the same time. About a fortnight after my father was drafted to go on Guard two weeks in town. Alarms almost every night till winter and carrying away furniture.

1780—A vast quantity of light snow fell—a strong N.W. wind blew it incessantly for 3 or 4 days—thicker than any snowstorm. Very hard winter— $\frac{1}{2}$  foot thick in the Channel of the Harbor. Jo Bartram came across Sound at White Stone after his escape from old Jersey prison ship.

March 18—Cap't Try, Lieut Willard and 20 soldiers went to town having been here 46 days.

May 19—Dark day—candles were lighted and fowls went to roost.

November 21—8 boats and 100 men went to L. I.

November 23—Returned having burned 400 tons of hay—took a fort with 50 men.

November 28—Came to Mill River 20 men took 3 sheep and an ox.

December 9—60 men landed at Compo. The mail was taken at Stratfield.

1781

February 18—A boat came to Mill River and took 2 of the inhabitants prisoners.

March 1—This week the enemy burnt 2 houses and a barn—one of them was Dr. Hill's.

March 4—They burnt 2 tide mills on Mill River.

March 22—A boat came to Mill River and plundered 2 houses.

April 13—A brig fired ashore at Greens Farms.

May 16—Two of the enemy brigs drove Cap't Sturges in, killed cattle at Stratford Point, took 37 sheep and 15 lambs of T. Burney at Kensey's Point.

May 31—At daybreak 4 of the enemy armed vessels landed at Compo 200 men where they drove on board a number of cattle, sheep and swine and burnt the guard house. Our people drove them off at noon with the loss of one man killed and 2 wounded.

June 27—Near this time a great number of whale boats go to L. Island to plunder.

July 11—Three French Frigates one of them 44 guns and a Brig and a Sloop came off against this harbor and got some pilots and went to

L. Island.

July 12—They returned having effected nothing.

August 25—2 sloops and a Brig having taken a guard at W. Haven—off Stratford Point—the Brig being upset and sunk. Two of the prisoners were drowned with some of the hands.

September 1—A great flight of pigeons 30 doz. at a time taken.

November 6—Off ye Cows a vessel upset—6 drowned.

1782—Salt is 4 dollars per bushel.

May 1—A Privateer of 8 guns takes many vessels on this shore.

June 24—Cap't Parks with 10 guns and 21 men fired at a boat with 10 men—it is thought they killed most of them—Off Black Rock.

May 6—Let the noise of War no more be named. There is a Peace once more proclaimed.

According to record John Dimon was taken prisoner by the enemy during the Danbury Raid and carried to New York. The place of his capture has been located as just below Aspetuck Corners on Redding Road. The story goes like this:

In 1777 when the British Forces landed off Compo Beach for the raid on Danbury, the news quickly filtered back from the shore. John Dimon and a friend like many of their neighbors shouldered their guns and started for the scene of action. Reaching what is now Aspetuck they met several men on horseback and supposing they were bound on the same errand made known their intention "To go down and help fight the British."

The horsemen proved to be a British scouting party. Dimon and his friend had their guns taken from them and broken on a ledge of rock. Were made prisoners, taken to New York where he shortly thereafter died while confined in the Old Sugar House prison in Rose St. Miss Agnes Bradley, a lady advanced in years living near by told in 1929, as follows:

The ledge was on the farm owned by my father—Bradley and which after his death was sold to and is now owned by Edward Mills. There had for many years been a small stone back of it and it was much used as a 'horse Block' as one could drive alongside and alight on it. That she as a child had seen the ledge, but that it is now pretty well covered up. She was well acquainted with the story of John Dimon's capture and pointed out the locality.

Altho much grading of the road has been done the top of the ledge with its straight face is plainly visible and distinguishable from the large boulders near it. It is on the west side of the road opposite south point of the triangle and about fifty feet north of the wagon gateway to Mr. Mills Premises. In the picture the right hand (east) road leads to Black Rock Turnpike and the left hand one to Lyons Plains.

At this writing the stone is no longer visible although a picture of its position is included with the pictures here.



Other narrations of former days in Easton and Weston which were penned by John Dimon Bradley, great grandson of John Dimon, in his eighty-first and succeeding years and copied from the original manuscript by Lucy Bradley Wells (Mrs. Ralph) show the following:

*Revolution from History and Hearsay*  
by Cyrus Sherwood Bradley—1929

In the year 1777 I have learned from History that Governor Tryon landed at a place called Compo near Saugatuck and pursued his course toward Danbury. On his way, I have heard it said that he stopped under a large oak tree near the residence of George Gorham in what is now called Westport, to rest. Then he marched on to a place now called Cross Highway. A woman there, hearing that the British were coming. When nearly there she put her children in bed, and told them to keep still, for the British were coming, and then got in herself. When they came in she looked up and said, 'La, me, if I had known you were coming so soon I would have been up and had breakfast ready for you.' They went to another house and took a man along with them. After they left him somewhere on the road my great grandfather Dimon and a man with him, with guns on horseback, met two men on horseback. They asked them where they were going. On being told they were going down to fight the British, the men on horseback proved to be the British light horse. They then ordered them to break their guns across the fence and got on the horses behind them, and they went on towards Danbury, where they got to what is now called Easton. They stopped at the house of Thomas Treadwell, where William Wakeman now lives. From there near Eben Mills' blacksmith shop the light guards, on seeing a man by the name of Jack Wakeman, a negro, come out of the shop with a horse and get on his back, they put chase after him, but his having a young horse kept his distance but when almost home he lost his hat, and turning to the right went across the river and put straight for Flag Swamp, so called. When the soldiers came along they stopped at the house of one Foot, which is still standing. The lady had been baking, and taken her bread out of the oven, and they helped themselves to such as they liked. From there they went to Benoni Dimons. His son, Gould Dimon, went on with them. From there they went to where Moses Burr lived—a warm Tory—when Tryon came up he saluted him, and they shook hands, and Burr told him that he longed to see the day, and then invited him in to dinner, and the stone at the door that Tryon walked on when he went in, I have in my yard for a walk. While in the house for dinner some of the men came in and helped themselves to pans of milk from off the pantry shelf which hung up in the room. While this was going on in the dining room Burr or his men were in the cellar helping to get out casks of cider for the army. They took them into the road, and rolled them into his cart that stood in front of the house, and they helped themselves. After dinner was over Tryon took up his line of march to the next house, owned by Samuel Wakeman, where the soldiers entered,

and one of the soldiers thrust the butt end of his gun through the face of the clock, besides doing some other damage in the house. While during their stay Tory Burr was out in the field, helping the red-coats to put the yoke on Wakeman's fat oxen, while he was back on the hill, watching them to take along with the army. Before leaving here, some of the men called Scouts, taking a back road from Cross Highway, leading up around by Lyon's Plains, so called, stopping around at the house of my great grandfather Dimon. They stole some articles, and then took up their line of march on a cross road that lead out to the main road where they would meet the army, but somewhere on the road the scouts as they went, they found a small boy and one of them, taking him up, looked at him and told him that he so small that he would be of no use to him—to run home to his mother. Afterwards that boy became my mother's uncle. By this road in James Hill's lot stood a large chestnut tree that was hollow—large enough so that one of the scouts rode his horse into it, turning around, came out, and went to meet the army. Tryon then took up his line of march toward Danbury, leaving Tory Burr behind, Tryon, thinking that he would be of more service to the King, hereafter, than to him. This ends my report from hearsay of Tryon's March from Compo to Samuel Wakeman's in what is now called Easton. Since I wrote the above on the road from Wakeman's to Redding the British shot a man and his grave is still to be seen. This is hearsay.

*Tryon from Danbury to Ridgefield and Compo*

At Ridgefield Tryon was met by Arnold and Wooster, and had a battle in which Wooster was killed and Arnold's men scattering, he gave it up. After the battle Tryon left Ridgefield with his army and marched towards Saugatuck. On his way down before he got there, an old Tory met them, and told him that a man by the name of Nash, captain of a company in Greens Farms, had collected his men together, and had stationed them at the bridge in Saugatuck to show fight. He told Tryon that he could pass over above the bridge, and shun him. Tryon told the Tory that he must lead the way, or he would shoot him. He then led them through the river and they marched down on this side of the river by the bridge without any opposition to Compo, taking my great grandfather Dimon along with them to New York, and report said that he died in the old sugar house, so called, and the other man got away alive. The history of Tryon from Ridgefield to Compo I had from hearsay. The house where Tory Burr lived, in the time of the Revolution was an upright house, one story and a half high, facing the road, with two outside doors and an outside door on the south of the house had what was a gambrel roof, and the north side was covered with rent and shaved shingles from oak timber. The door on the south side led into a small room with a fireplace in it, and a bed also. After Tryon returned back from Compo to Long Island Tory Burr had frequent visits from his officers to get information where they could steal horses and cattle to take to Long Island and to accommodate them he had a trap door fixed under the bed in this small room, and a hole dug



in the ground underside, large enough for the men to get into, and stay secreted during the day, and at night return to Long Island with their plunder. This business was carried on from the time Tryon got back to Long Island till peace was declared, and the war was ended.

Note: John Dimon probably died in 1778 as the Probate proceedings were commenced that year.

C. S. B.

The advertisements in the newspapers for the final and post-war days show several items of real interest.

(Advertisements)

*Connecticut Journal — New Haven*

Lost on the road from Stratfield to Greenfield in Fairfield County, a parchment containing about 180 or 190 dollars in Continental bills; there were two 30 dollar bills one of which was dated November 1776. Any person finding the same and applying to the subscriber shall have twenty dollars reward.

2 — 5

David Hawley

Stratfield, September 18, 1778.

To be sold by the subscriber at Public Vendue<sup>1</sup> on Thursday the 20th instant at 4 o'clock in the afternoon at the house of Mr. Seth Sherwood in Greenfield. A six oar'd whale boat with two good sails and one swivel suitable for cruising on the Sound.

Justin Jennings

Fairfield, March 4, 1780.

A court will be held at the dwelling house of Gershom Hubbell Esq., in Fairfield on the second day of April next at 9 o'clock in the forenoon to try the Justice of the capture of one piece of Cambrick and Sundry other goods taken in Long Island Sound and libelled by William Pike an Officer in the Continental Army.

Lemuel Sanford, Justice Peace & Qu'm.

Fairfield, March 10, 1783

There was indeed much work to be done.

Now the Town House (Hall) had to be completed and a special tax to be paid in lawful money was levied.

All of the Town buildings—Church, Court House, Jail—were erected on the same foundations where the previous buildings had stood. The Church was built in the same form as the one burnt since it was the wish of the senior citizens of that period. The Church steps—large stone ones—remained in their former position. The other buildings, too, were designed similarly to the former ones. The Court House was more beautiful than the previous one had been. The Judge's bench was a high one. The Advocates' seats and those of the Jurors, as well as the Witness boxes, were all ornamented with fine carved work.

<sup>1</sup> Sales of goods seized from ships.

Other business details of the Town were taken care of regularly once again. Straggling sheep with their natural and artificial marks had to be entered in the Town Records. The bridges were repaired or rebuilt. Captain Caleb Brewster, Captain John Squier 3rd and Mr. Aaron Turney were approved as builders for the bridge to be built over the Great Creek. Chimney viewers were officially added to the list of Town Officers. The two Center School districts in the Prime Society were given liberty to make a swing partition across the Town House for the convenience of the school. There were loud protests against Danbury becoming the Shire (County) town.

A Town Meeting Legally warned and held in Fairfield July 6th, 1784.

Voted yt Jonathan Sturges Esqr. be Moderator of this Meeting.

Voted and Agreed yt an Agent be appointed to prefer a Memorial to the General Assembly at their next Sessions respecting the late Act of Assembly making the Town Danbury a half Shire Town and Endeavour to obtain a repeal of the same. Also voted yt Jonathan Sturges Esqr. be Agent for the Town for the purpose aforesaid.

Voted and Agreed yt Andrew Rowland, Thads. Burr and Elijah Abel, Esqrs. be a Committee to Confer with the Selectmen of such of the different Towns in this County as they shall think proper desiring such Selectmen to try the minds of their Several Towns relative to the late Act of Assembly relative to making Danbury a half Shire Town and invite such Towns to take some suitable Measures to obtain a Repeal of said Act.

Voted yt ye Agent for the Town prefer a Memorial with a Citation respecting the Law of this State making Danbury a half shire Town and have the same served on sd Town of Danbury as soon as he Conveniently can.

Voted and Agreed yt the new Law Books be disposed of in manner following Viz: one to be lodged with ye Town Clerk for the use of said Societies: and the Selectmen to dispose of the rest for the benefit of the Town.

Thaddeus Burr and Jonathan Sturges, Esq., were chosen a Committee to "stake out a place at the Southeast Corner of the Place of Parade on The Mill Plain for the professors of the Episcopal Church in this town to build a house for public worship there." The church was consecrated in 1789 and opened to service in 1790.

On December 21, 1786, it was decided to hold town meetings in the Prime Society hereafter and on May 8, 1787 it was voted that "part of the Parish of Norfield and part of the Parish that lye in the town of Fairfield be incorporated into a Township"—Weston. The new township immediately claimed some of the school and



public monies.

In 1786 Freemen in Fairfield County were to meet on the 3rd Tuesday in September annually to choose 20 gentlemen to stand in nomination for Assistants and 12 to stand in nomination for Delegates in Congress.

Then the Monday following the first Tuesday in April was Freemen's Meeting throughout the state. At this time Freemen had to be 21 years of age, possess a freehold estate to the value of 40 shillings personal estate and be of quiet and peaceable behavior. Town officers listed in the State Register for 1786 were:

David Burr	Clerk
Gold Selleck Silliman	State Attorney
Elijah Abel	Sheriff
Ephraim Robbins	Deputy Sheriff
Nathan Bulkley	Town Clerk
Jabez Fitch—Greenfield	Town Clerk
House of Representatives:	Col. Elijah Abel
	Capt. Samuel Wakeman
Postmaster	Thaddeus Burr
Ministers listed:	Rev. Andrew Elliott
	Rev. Hezekiah Ripley
	Rev. Robert Ross
	Rev. James Johnson
	Rev. Timothy Dwight
	Two vacant Parishes
	were also listed.

On December 22, 1788 the town made known that it was opposed to Stratfield becoming a separate town and sent Jonathan Sturgis to the General Assembly meeting in New Haven to oppose the petition of the inhabitants of Stratfield. The town had also taken title to a piece of land at Black Rock—"northerly of the upper wharf" and Thaddeus Burr, Joseph Strong Esq., and Captain Samuel Smedley were appointed a Committee with full power to lay out and bound out land belonging to the Town at Black Rock upper wharf into proper lots for the building of wharves and stores "for the accommodation of such gentlemen as may choose to establish themselves in trade at Black Rock".

The Connecticut Journal for September 9, 1789 carried the following announcement:

At a meeting of the Town of Fairfield on the 24th of August last, a committee was chosen to lay out the land belonging to the Town and Black Rock Harbour, into proper Lots for building Wharves and Stores upon, for Accommodation of such Gentlemen as may choose to establish themselves in Trade at that Place; and impowered said Committee to give Survey-Bills of said Lots to such Gentlemen as may apply for them for that purpose. In consequence of said Vote, We the Subscribers have laid out five very commodious Lots, at said Black Rock, and are now ready to give surveys of them to such Gentle-

men as may apply for the purpose above mentioned—the lots to be a free gift from the Town.

Thaddeus Burr	} Committee
Joseph Strong	
Samuel Smedley	

Fairfield, September 4, 1789

The next year it became unlawful to take oysters from the Ash House Creek.

Small Pox continued after as during the war to place a shadow over the community and each year permission had to be granted for inoculations.

On October 16, 1789, President George Washington and his entourage spent the night at the "Rising Sun Tavern", just at the rear of the Town Hall on the Village Green. This stop was part of the President's tour through New England. The next day he went on to Stratford, etc. His diary shows the following for the 1789 eastward Journey which marked his 7th journey in Connecticut:

Thursday, Friday, October 15, 16, 1789—Rye

About 7 o'clock we left the Widow Haviland's (in Rye) and after passing Horse-Neck . . . we breakfasted at Stamford . . . at Norwalk . . . we made a halt to feed our horses . . . From thence to Fairfield, where we dined and lodged, is 12 miles; and part of it very rough Road, but not equal to that thro' Horse-Neck. The superb Landscape, however, which is to be seen from the Meeting House of the latter is a rich regalia. We found all the farmers busily employed in gathering, grinding and expressing the juice of their apples, the crop of which they say is rather above mediocrity. The average crop of wheat they say is about fifteen bushels to the acre for the fallow land—often twenty and from that to twenty-five. The Destruction evidences of British cruelty are yet visible both in Norwalk and Fairfield; as there are the chimneys of many burnt houses standing in them yet.

The principal export from Norwalk and Fairfield is horses and cattle—salted beef and pork—lumber and Indian Corn to the West Indies and in a small degree wheat and flour.

Friday, Saturday, October 16, 17, 1789—Fairfield

A little after sun-rise we left Fairfield and passing through Et. Fairfield, breakfasted at Stratford . . . was attended to the Ferry, which is near a mile from the center of the Town by sev'l. Gentlemen on horse-back . . . the Ferry is near half a mile . . . From the Ferry it is about 3 miles to Milford . . . From Milford, we took the lower road through West Haven . . . etc., etc.

Of his return journey through Connecticut in 1789 he says . . .

Wednesday, Thursday, November 11, 12, 1789—Westport

Set out about sunrise, and took the upper road to Milford, it being shorter than the lower one



through West Haven. Breakfasted at the former (at the Clark Homestead). Baited at Fairfield; and dined and lodged at a Maj. Marvin's 9 miles further.

There was an interesting account in the "Connecticut Journal" for December 27, 1789 telling of his departure from Connecticut which I think bears repeating here:

*Connecticut Journal—December 23, 1789*

The President and the Tything Man

The President on his return to New York from his late tour thru Connecticut, having missed his way on Saturday, was obliged to ride a few miles on Sunday morning, in order to gain the town, at which he had previously proposed to have attended divine service—Before he arrived, however, he was met by a tythingman who commanding him to stop, demanded the occasion of his riding; and it was not until the President informed him of every circumstance, and promised to go no further than the town intended, that the tything man would permit him to proceed on his journey.

He noted in his diary that contrary to modern custom, it was against the law and "offensive to the people of Connecticut to travel on Sunday"—no doubt, the result of this experience.

President Washington probably stayed overnight in Fairfield on his third journey through Connecticut for judging from his expense account for April 11, 1776 "at Penfield's in Fairfield for £2-0s-9d" was listed as an expense.

On his second journey in June, 1775, it was said that he went on the Old Post Road from New York as far as New Haven on his eastward trip. His first journey in February 1756, going from Alexandria, Virginia to Boston, probably took him through our town and he must have returned through it on his way back. There is an entry for dinner at Bulkley's Inn on June 28 in his log.

It is said that Washington drank from the well at the old Osborne House in Southport. A silver tankard hung on the well to satisfy the thirsty travelers along the King's Highway.

We should also realize that Paul Revere spent a night during this period at the home of Judge Jonathan Sturgis when on his way from Boston to New York with messages for General Washington. The site of that house is now the small park opposite St. Thomas Church on the Boston Post Road.

The stages drove from New York to Hartford twice each week in 1784.

In 1790 there were 1,449 inhabitants in Fairfield. Fairfield was the Port of Entry for the whole coast of Connecticut on the western side of the Housatonic. Commerce was carried on

with New York and Boston. The coasting trade was of considerable importance, while that with foreign lands was comparatively small.

The Collector of Customs was Samuel Smedley of Fairfield and included here are some customs receipts of that time. (Many carriages were taxed by Act of Congress, June 1794).

I ANDREW ELLIOTT of the Township of FAIRFIELD in the county of FAIRFIELD do hereby make entry with S. SMEDLEY collector of the Revenue in the said Township of ONE CHAISE to be drawn by ONE horse WITHOUT a top and having TWO wheels, agreeable to an act of the Congress of the United States passed on the fifth day of June 1794.

Dated in FAIRFIELD                      ANDREW ELLIOTT  
this 30 day of SEPT. 1794

To S. SMEDLEY Collector  
of the Revenue in the 7th  
Division in the District of Connecticut

I MARY SILLIMAN of the Township of FAIRFIELD in the county of FAIRFIELD do hereby make entry with S. SMEDLEY Collector of the Revenue in the said Township of ONE CHAISE to be drawn by ONE horse WITH a top and having TWO wheels, agreeable to an act of the Congress of the United States passed on the fifth day of June 1794.

Dated in FAIRFIELD                      MARY SILLIMAN  
this 30 day of SEPT. 1794

To S. SMEDLEY Collector  
of the Revenue in the 7th  
Division in the District of Connecticut

I PHILO SHELTON of the Township of FAIRFIELD in the County of FAIRFIELD do hereby make entry with S. SMEDLEY Collector of the Revenue in the said Township of ONE CHAISE to be drawn by ONE horse WITH a top and having TWO wheels, agreeable to an act of the Congress of the United States passed on the fifth day of June 1794.

Dated in FAIRFIELD                      PHILO SHELTON  
this 15 day of SEPT. 1794

To S. SMEDLEY Collector  
of the Revenue in the 7th  
Division in the District of Connecticut

Cargo of Ship                                      April 2, 1792  
S. Smedley Collector  
Bound for Boston

12,000 pounds of flax

17,000 bushels corn

400 bushels rye

400 bushels oats

40 barrels pork

30 barrels flour

40 bags flour

6 sacks feathers

3 kegs hogs lard

300 lbs. cheese

12 pieces ?? cloth

8 Fox skins

All freight had to be cleared by the Collector.



This list shows a typical cargo going from Fairfield.

It would be appropriate at this point to say a little more about Captain Samuel Smedley whose house stood at the corner of Oldfield and Old Post Road and with all of its out-buildings was burned on July 9, 1779. He with a Fairfield crew took to privateering on the "Recovery". He was taken prisoner and shipped to the Old Mill Prison in Plymouth, England in March 1781 at the age of 28. From there he escaped and arrived in Philadelphia from Holland on September 12, 1782 in command of a chartered ship "Heer Adams" with a large consignment of military and naval stores for the United States which had been purchased in Holland during the War. Captain Smedley continued as Collector of Customs for the District of Fairfield until he died on June 13, 1812. The custom house where all of the shipping business of the District was carried on was for a time at the house on the corner of Bronson Road and Old Academy Road in Greenfield Hill. It was later moved to a building in Bridgeport west of Park Avenue on Division Street.

Mill River was beginning to show its value for transportation and trade about now.

It was further voted:

that Mill River Rock against which Captain Wyght's vessel was driven and dashed to pieces be given to Captain Wyght if nothing thereon be built by him to impede or hurt the navigation of Mill River and he have liberty to make a dock on the north side thereon—if it be done within 2 years.

A picture of this rock is in the picture section.

Water lots were also laid out on Mill River.

On October 21, 1799 it was

Voted that this town be willing that a lottery be granted by the General Assembly for the purpose of sinking the channel of Mill River Harbor and they request that any application of the like kind to sd Assembly be by them considered not to be of an adversary nature as respects sd town and that further notice be unnecessary thereof to said town—said votes truly taken.

Per  
S. Rowland—Town Clerk

Town Planning and organization continued, an example of which would be when

Liberty was given to Samuel Rowland (Town Clerk) to build a stoop or portico in front of his house to extend 7-8 ft. from sd House toward the road—fence to run from the lower step to the corners of the house.

On December 22, 1794 a committee was empowered to estimate and value the Town House

and consider the property of the Town House.

The following September the Selectmen were given the power to sell the Town House to the best advantage and the purchaser to remove it from where it then stood and Caleb Brewster was given "liberty to remove his blacksmith shop from where it now stands—a little north of Captain Wheeler's wharf and to remove his store which now stands near his house to the place which he removes sd blacksmith shop".

More planning was evident when on December 27, 1797 owners were given permission to set out trees on highways either for use or ornament, provided the adjoining proprietor shall be willing for such tree to be set out and stand and whenever any such proprietor, their heirs be sent out shall order the same be taken away."

These people were thrifty, too, i.e.:

Voted that the materials in the bridge now called Godfrey's Bridge be appropriated and made use of in the new bridge proposed to be built below and near Peter Perry's Grist Mill.

The following year a request was made to continue Godfrey's Bridge where it "now stands" and to excuse them from building a bridge below Peter Perry's Grist Mill.

Fairfield was regaining its pre-war appearance with the rebuilding which was going on all about. It now became the center of intellectual culture and refinement. The County Court sessions brought together renowned lawyers from all corners of the State and men of distinction and wealth came to this place to live.

In 1797, the New England Gazetteer had this to say about Fairfield:

Fairfield, Ct.

*New England Gazetteer—1797*

Fairfield, the Uncoway of the Indians, a post town and port of entry of Connecticut, and capital of the above county, is pleasantly situated on Mill-River, a little above its entrance into Long-Island Sound, 22 miles S.W. by W. of New-Haven, and 64 from New-York. It contains about 200 houses, a neat Congregational church, and a court-house. About 4 miles N.W. of the body of the town, and in the township is the beautiful parish of Greenfield, in which is a flourishing academy. A high eminence in the centre of the parish commands a delightful prospect. Fairfield was settled from Wethersfield in 1639, and in 1736 contained 400 families. It was burnt by a party of Tories and British, under the command of Governor Tryon, in 1779; the loss sustained, amounted to upwards of £40,000. Fairfield carries on a considerable trade to the W. Indies. The exports for one year, ending September 30th, 1794, amounted to 77,425 dollars.

Let us now pause and view the Village Green



as it appeared at the close of the 18th century—the parade ground—the training place for the local militia, for it was at this point that many changes were about to take place. Here had stood the whipping post and the stocks where frequent or occasional culprits and criminals received punishments for swearing, use of tobacco on the street, Sabbath breaking, drunkenness, abusive carriages and similar offenses. (The whipping post is currently the town bulletin board or sign post and stands in about the same position.) The Town Hall and Court House stood near the center and the Meeting House and School House were also part of the Green. To the west of the whipping post stood the Jail and the Keeper's House, adjoining which was the "witch pond" where women had been ducked who were thought to have diabolic tendencies—this to test their guilt or innocence.

At the southernmost corner of the Green,

flourished the Bulkley Tavern, the Sun Tavern on the west corner, another Bulkley Tavern on the northwest corner and later on, Knapps Tavern on the north corner.

Here, on this Green and in these halls—lawyers and litigants of note gathered—soldiers marched and countermarched—the British under Tryon met the few Continental troops and local militia in 1779—General Silliman trained his men—the citizens met for public worship when bereft of the old Meeting House—political, social, religious and military organizations had assembled for generations.

Here a large boulder has more recently been placed to commemorate the complete history known only to the old sycamore tree which guards the eastern entrance to the center of our government's activities of today, the Town Hall. This is one of the lovely old characteristic greens of New England.



## CHAPTER 7

### 1800-1860

A calm after the War was settling over our community of 3,735 inhabitants as the new century dawned but the industrious and active air which had been evident in Fairfield since its founding was more forceful and prominent than ever before. The business of running the Town went on as usual and every effort was made to make Fairfield move forward.

The people were anxious to improve their place of living. New roads were sought, bridges had to be built and each parish was respected and treated with equity in the satisfaction of its needs.

A new bridge was planned to span the Saugatuck with the cost amounting to \$803.00. This was to come from subscription by the group who would use the bridge and when they refused to pay a suit was brought against them by the Town in the County Court.

A new road from the Black Rock Wharf to Weston was proposed and another from the same wharf to Trumbull was hoped for. Every person was given liberty to work out his rate on the road—working eight hours a day and furnishing his own tools. Should any person fail to report when he was assigned, he was to be debarred from working out his rate later. Each Surveyor of Highways was to collect the rate in his district and was allowed 75¢ for each day that he worked at his job. Two-thirds of the labor on the roads was to be done in May and June. Each Society received money according to their lists.

Before 1800 taxes had been collected in rather an easy going way. Collectors kept rate books and did the best they could to get all of the money in but collectors and payees were seldom prompt in their duty. On December 24, 1800 the following regulations concerning the "Rate" for the roads were arrived at and set down for all to follow.

1. The Collector was to be paid out of the Tax collected.

2. The Selectmen were to appoint in each Society an agent or agents to repair said roads and bridges—the agents were to examine the bridges from time to time and an amount of money would be allotted to them.
3. The Selectmen were to decide the roads that should have the repairs.
4. The agents were to be compensated from the Tax money.
5. The road workers were to be paid—if they owed taxes they could work them out.
6. The work was to be done during the period of April 1st to June 30th.
7. The materials and tools were to be obtained in the most economical way.
8. There was to be credit given to people for furnishing materials.
9. The credit on the Rate for a day's work was not to exceed 75¢ "for keeping included", and "for a man with cattle team cart, plow be credited to the amount if his tax not exceeding at the rate of \$2.00 for a day, keeping also included".

The rate in 1800 amounted to 1 cent 5 mills.

While many proposals for improvements were given, they were frequently not accepted readily and we see that the town opposed the establishment of a turnpike from the "Stratford Ferry to Byram Bridge" and the road from Sasco towards Hulls Farms and from Saugatuck stores to Weston was rejected. Then too, the petition of Caleb Brewster and others for the road from "Black Rock to Weston be opposed". It was a case of too many projects coming too fast and it was necessary for the people to decide which were needed first. One still feels this tremendous stronghold of balance among these people. Fairness was their broad base. They voted that "no nomination made by any of the several parishes shall have preference to be tried in Town Meeting for this or any future meetings". They apparently even tried meeting around in the several parishes to divide up the hardship of winter travel for we find that the December 26, 1803 meeting was held at the Meeting House in Greenfield where it was noted that "Doc David Hull be not excused from being



Selectmen". There were five selectmen chosen at this time.

The Surveyors of Highways were now chosen according to their Society membership. The Selectmen were instructed to furnish a suitable number of drays to make and repair the roads and each surveyor was "accountable to the Selectmen therefore and return such dray to the place of deposit". It was not long before that first bit of Town Equipment was ordered to include "scrapers and axe shovels so called proper for mending the highways . . . to appoint proper places for deposit of these in each parish . . . these to be used for *no* other purpose".

It was further voted about that time that the Town accounts were to be lodged with the Selectmen for "publick inspection" and the Town Treasurer was to receive \$5.00 for his services for the year.

The early years of the new century brought very difficult weather for the people. In March of 1801 we find a report of a continuous storm for 14 days and during the same month the next year "a continued storm of 12 days—no sun, moon or blue sky appeared" and even the tides were troublesome for we find them backing up into springs used for drinking water and covering meadows seriously.

On January 23, 1804, Jonathan Bulkley wrote in his diary:

Mill River froze over last Wednesday night and still continues to be froze so hard that no mast can get out. There is 3 vessels loaded and ready to sail but cannot get out on account of the ice. This day is as severe a snowstorm as any we have had within three seasons. Very cold. The wind is about N.N.E. and blows a gale and so thick you can't see land  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile.

The Federalists were in power at that time but their majorities were decreasing.

In 1806 on June 16 a total eclipse of "ye Sun" was very clearly visible in Fairfield and the following year on December 14th one finds "pieces like ore fell out of the sky, one weighed 36 lbs. Several pieces fell in Weston—one near the house of Mr. Prince—went three feet into the Earth—a ball of fire was seen in the North with a sound that lasted a minute—like several cannon". Another report,

Wednesday 30, December 1807 about three or four weeks since there appeared to them who happened to be up at the time a meteor passed through Weston, lower part of Trumbull and the upper part of Greenfield about the break of day. The report which succeeded the blast was equal to a loud clap of thunder and it was said by people who stood

at their doors heard something pass near them which they daren't not venture to see it being so dark, and they so frightened until morning when to their surprise they found a large stone two feet below the ground in their dooryard weighing 35 lbs. and it is supposed that in other places that stone fell to weight of 200 lbs.

That year marked the end of Federalism in Town. Jonathan Bulkley wrote,

Thursday December 8, 1807. Town meeting this day which was carried by a majority of 40 in favor of Republicanism and the downfall of Federalism.

In 1808, persons were given "liberty to rail or fence in at their own expense the Court House Green, near the Meeting House and the Church Green so called on the Mill Plain with suitable and proper railing or fencing and have liberty to level or repair such greens without any expense to the Town."

In 1810 there were 4,135 people in Fairfield and 500 of these were electors. There were 550 dwellings in the Town. There were three companies of Infantry, part of a company of cavalry and the principal part of a company of artillery. There were more apples than ever before that year.

In 1811 a Committee was chosen for each Society to district the individual Society. There were four Societies now — Fairfield, Green Farms, Greenfield and Stratfield. The result of this vote is included here:

Voted that there be a committee in each located Society for the purpose of districting each society into proper surveyors limits describing such limits and numbering them and make report to some future town meetings.

Voted	Israel Bibbins	} be of the above committee for the first society of Fairfield
	Samuel Rowland	
	Edmond Burr	
	Joseph Strong	} for Stratfield
	Robert Willson	
	David Hubbell	} for Greenfield
	Eben Banks	
	Eben Burr	
	Seymour Taylor	} for Greens Farms
	Aaron Sherwood	
	Talcot Banks	

Four Selectmen were chosen now. The annual meeting of these Selectmen was scheduled for the first Monday in January when two of the civil authority were appointed to audit and adjust the accounts of the Selectmen. Those accounts were exhibited to the "public on the last Monday of November".



October 31st showed the highest tide in 20 years.

Christmas Day was very cold and 18 vessels went ashore in the Sound.

Clouds of War had hung over the Country for several years and Fairfield had felt its little stinging pricks as had the other coastal towns.

Connecticut as a whole did not regard the War of 1812 as a good War. The Connecticut Senators, Chauncey Goodrich and Samuel Dana voted against the War. They were 2 of the 13 who opposed the move. 19 Senators were in favor of the declaration of War. The militia was not sent out of the State but instead was employed for the home defense. Some from Fairfield volunteered for the regular army and served throughout the Country. There were 15 such volunteers from Fairfield.

When the news of the embargo on the United States reached here on December 26, 1807 a great deal of uneasiness developed because of the fact that many citizens feared the fatal consequences to their property which lay in vessels and other property which was exposed to war.

On July 7, 1809 Jonathan Bulkley made this entry in his diary:

July 7, 1809—The embargo is still on and we have no buying on hand nor is it probable we shall have any very soon—so long as these troubles sometimes lasts and how long God and time only knows. Our dear sought Liberty I am afraid is in jeopardy.

Soon after the declaration of War on June 18, 1812 by the United States against Great Britain, the local vessels started to arrive and anchor in Mill River and beginning in October, several of the Mill River vessels were captured by the British. Captain Robinson was captured but regained possession of his ship and escaped. The Schooner Betsey Matilda was captured and escaped. The sloop Rose was taken and ordered to Bermuda. The schooner Rising Sun was taken and destroyed. The sloop Filanda was captured and sent to Halifax. Lothrop Burr and Bradley Sturges were taken prisoners and came back from England in June 1815.

Jeremiah Sturges formed a company in Southport known as the 2nd Company of The First Battalion Veteran Volunteers in which there were 42 original members on May 24, 1813. Each owned a musket. Governor John Cotton Smith of Sharon promised them a field piece, small arms and ammunition but he was not able to keep his promise. This necessitated the group finding and digging up a buried 12 pounder in

Black Rock and a six pounder in Compo and they fared for ammunition as best they could. At the mouth of Mill River they built up the earth into a fort known as "Defense" and on June 21, 1813 it was visited by Governor Smith who spoke kindly of the fort and of the company and "partook of Cake and cheese provided by the ladies".

These men had pledged their lives, their property and their sacred honor "to stand by each other in defense of their wives and families, their lives and properties, their rights and independence against all attacks of the enemy". They agreed to obey orders and arm themselves and to drill regularly. Officers selected were Captain Jeremiah Sturges, Ensign Ebenezer Dimon Jr., and Lieutenant Joab Squire.

The Company carried out all of their agreement but as far as we know never received any pay for their efforts. Although on June 24, 1814 Capt. Sturges and Paul Sheffield sailed to New London in one of the local vessels for the purpose of obtaining it.

Their drills continued formally under a special "Willow tree" which stood somewhere in the center of the village and their special "spreads" were served at Molly Pike's Tavern.

The iron cannon which had been dug up were returned to the State in April 1815.

May 9, 1816—The Mill River Exempt Company was revived Monday the 9th of May by order of his Excellency the commissioner and the Company takes effect from the 22nd of June 1813.

Jonathan Bulkley made several other interesting entries in his Journal about the community's activities and responsibilities during that war period. They follow:

To Jonathan Bulkley—Sergeant of the first Company of Defensive Independent Volunteers in Mill River you are hereby requested to notify the following non-commissioned officers and privates to appear under the Willow Tree by Mill River near Mrs. Pike's Inn on Monday the second day of November next at 3 o'clock p.m. completely equipped for exercise and reverie Mill River October 27, 1812 per order Sergeant Jon. Bulkley.

and then:

Fort Defense at Mill River commenced building June 15th 1813 by Mill River inhabitants and completed Friday, June 18, without any expense to any government or person more than their voluntary work.

Monday, June 21, 1813 we had the pleasure and honor of a visit from the Governor of this State to view the situation and to make arrangements for its protection. His Excellency John Cotton Smith was



much pleased with our excursions in self defense likewise with our new fort in which he stood and made his communications, he likewise gave us assurance that we should have everything done for us that was necessary.

Sept. 7, 1813—Mill River—appeared off this place two English ships of War.

Oct. 27, 1813—yesterday morning there appeared off Mill River a Brig of War said to be H. M. Brig Bores of 14 guns Capt. Coote late from Halifax. She has been in chase of a sloop 2/3 way to Long Island fired 10 to 15 guns, the flashes and smoke of which were very distinctly seen. She was in the sound all day Sunday before as guns were heard from her. She took a small schooner bound to New York with a few on board and manned her out with two men for the Squadron. It blew a gale on Monday from the southward so that she was run ashore on Fairfield Bar in consequence of springing her fore mast and the two men gave themselves up as prisoners of War to the Marshal. The Brig also fell in with the Black Rock Packet and Capt. Brooks of Bridgeport which very narrowly escaped after having received several shots.

April 16, 1814—Two of the enemy ships appeared off Bridgeport which caused the people of that Borough and Fairfield to be alarmed. The militia consequently was called out and kept under arms for the night. The following day (Saturday) about 10 o'clock a.m. they got underway and stood to the Eastward to the satisfactions of the inhabitants. It is thought by some that their object was to get provisions which they had previously contracted for, how true I can't say. Their conduct however is something extraordinary as they lay to anchor about 18 hours—without apparently doing anything.

The guard at Mill River commenced Monday, June 27, 1814 consisting of one sergeant, two corporals, twelve privates detached from the Mill River Exempt Company pay \$10.00 per month and one ration which is 13¢ altogether amounts to \$15.00 or thereabouts.

The guard at this place repaired Fort Defense August 20, 1814 Saturday afternoon.

October 3, 1814—One English Frigate and Brig appeared off Black Rock and this place Friday, September 30, 1814 and continued anchored and part of the time under way standing off and on 'til Saturday night when they sent their barges into Satocket L. I. and cut out 6 sloops one of which was got aground and burnt Sunday, October 2. They fled down the sound to Eastward again. The inhabitants of Bridgeport, Black Rock, Fairfield and Mill River were much alarmed and many sent away their furniture.

Mill River Guard was discharged Tuesday, November 22, 1814 by order of his Excellency J. C. Smith after continuing four months and 25 days and no enemy appeared.

Saturday, December 3, 1814 there appeared off Mill River 2 privateer schooners which remained

in sight all day and captured 2 or 3 coasters. The Packet arrived Saturday night safe from New York without discovering the Privateers.

Black Rock Harbor contains 2 long 18 in. and 2 Brass 6 in. (cannon) with all them operating estimated to have cost \$7,000 belonging to the United States. The Guard was first stationed here in the fall of 1814 under the command of Lieut. Hanford consisting of 2 sergeants, 2 corporals, 2 musicians, 26 privates.

Hull Sherwood who lived on Mill Hill and was 21 years old in December 1812, was the great grandfather of Clyde S. Buckingham. He served the Militia during that period, very faithfully and made many references to the War of 1812 which o'er shadowed Fairfield for many, many days. This war next to the American Revolution probably touched Fairfield more closely than any other war activity in which our Country has had a part. At the outset of the War, Fairfield had 3 Companies, 7 Infantry, a part of a company of cavalry and the principal part of a company of artillery. Here is a complete record of how this War affected a young lad of that period.

#### 1812

May 4—Cold rain in the morning and snow—very steady all the remainder of the day which melted by the seashore as fast as it fell. This being Training Day, the company met principally at Capt. Walter Sherwood, it being the first day that he and Lieu. Jonathan Lewis has served in the office. Azor Osborn was this day chosen to be our Ensign and Ephriam Jennings and Joseph Bulkley, Sargt. Samuel A. Nichols, James Beers, Seth Jennings, and Samuel Perry were chosen Corporals and I was chosen Fifer for the company and I accepted. Today we done our business in the Court House on account of the storm. We dined at Knapps.

May 7—The music and some of the Militia met and marched up to Knapp's.

May 13—In the evening Capt. Walter Sherwood by order of Colonel Burr made a draft for soldiers and took of privates from his company. Their names were as follows viz: Stephen Osborn Jun., Isaac H. Osborn, Joseph Osborn, David B. Perry, Aaron Morehouse, James Robertson, Walter Perry, R. Jesse Dimon.

June 20—Got some King Crabs.  
Declaration of War in America.

July 17—. . . in the evening it being very bright a part of the 2nd Company of Militia were exercised on the Green by the Church.

July 23—Fast which was appointed by Gov. Roger Griswold throughout the State on account of the present War—4th and 5th Vol's in the evening we exercised on the Green.

Aug. 8—We hear daily of Wars . . . .

Aug. 12—. . . I went to Seth Sherwoods, the officers of the Regiment being collected there—I also bought me a fife of Mr. Godfrey from Northfield and the Common Scale for Fife of Major Downs. I staid at my Sister's all night.

Aug. 17—. . . in the P.M. I went to Mill River, to training, there being a volunteer company col-



lected in uniform there for the defense of the place. The potatoes I sent to New York cleared 1/9 and the onions 2/7 per bushel.

Aug. 20—This day is appointed by the President of our States and furthered by the Governors of each State as a day of Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer as the Wars continue we have reason to implore his Almighty's protection and trust succour in case of invasion. Today Mr. Shelton preached at Weston.

Sept. 6—Cloudy in the A.M. and some sunshine in the P.M. Today busy Training Day we had one company of Troops in the A.M. and in the P.M. the Mill River Volunteer. In the A.M. I carried a Gun and in the P.M. a fife though not being able to chord with the Musicians—we had a part of the Band of Music—Colonel Burr presented the 1st and 2nd companies with colours and we dined at J. Knapp's paying 56¢ per man.

Sept. 16—General Training at Fairfield, 1 Reg. of horse and 1 of Foot. Gershom Burr is now Col. of the foot and Foote of the horses. Today I carried a gun.

Sept. 22—. . . in the evening we trained at the Church after marching to Mill River and in the evening at a ball at Mrs. Pike's.

Oct. 24—Today Capt. Bradley and Walter embark with their Soldiers from Mill River for Green Bush opposite Albany.

#### 1813

Mar. 4—. . . Some people are rejoicing today that Mr. Madison has arrived at the Office of President for another 4 years.

. . . practiced some blowing on the fife.

April 5—Capt. Baldwin had his company of Militia out on the Hill for exercise.

April 24—Rain in the morning which slacked about 9. I then went to Wilton at Holiberts Hole, after fifer Andrew Morehouse from there to Northfield and got Robert Downs to play with me Training Day.

May 3—Training Day. Today I blow the Fife with Mr. Downs and we dine at Knapp's Inn.

May 10—In the evening I went to Mill Plain where the boys practice in Military Exercise, it being beautiful moonlight.

May 26—Today a part of the Regiments Music met on Greenfield Hill and officers in order for practice with me among the rest.

June 2—It being warm, I carted seaweed and brush. New London is at this time blockaded by a British Fleet as is reported the cloud of War is darkening and thickening.

June 25—The War being at present the theme of conversation and its effects is expected among us daily.

July 1—A Volunteer Company is formed at Mill River.

July 15—Went to Training at the Church. The Company being called out for Inspection.

July 17—A draft has been made from a part of the companys of our Regiment for the purpose of going to New London to defend it but on their way got discharged.

Aug. 9—Today the Commissioned and Non-Commissioned officers are called together of this regiment and the Band of Music.

Aug. 27—Practice fiving with drummer Beers.

Sept. 6—Annual Training Day, we paraded, maneuvered and exercised near the Church through the Day with a company of volunteers from Mill River, we dined at B. Beers. I played upon the fife with Brother Banks to assist me, after Training I ate an excellent watermelon.

Sept. 7—Today 3 English ships pass the Sound westward at night they took off 60 sheep from Horseneck and have took as I understand 20 sails of our vessels.

Sept. 8—. . . the British still lie off the West part of the Sound.

Sept. 10—The British ships come up the Sound and pass by to the Eastward. In the P.M. I went to Greenfield with the Regiments. Officers and music after Major Downes, Major Silliman is appointed.

Sept. 15—General Training at Bridgeport—Golden Hill—we paraded at 10 o'clock—marched from Benedict through Bridgeport, on to the appointed parade, the training consisted of Stratford Regiment and our own. We have dismissal before night and orders to appear at 8 in the morrow morning. I return home it being horrible dusty traveling.

Sept. 16—We wind off the Training, commanded by Col. Burr—Tom Sturges Adj. who fell from his horse.

Sept. 17—. . . I learn some tunes on the fife.

Sept. 18—. . . today I learn a tune upon the fife without notes.

Oct. 25—A heavy dash of rain. In the A.M. In the P.M. I husked corn and Father brought it into the Chamber. In the evening I purchased a clarinet of Gad Root—\$4.00. Some of the British Vessels of *War* are in our Sound and have made attacks on our port Packets, some they have taken. One came ashore on our beach today which had been taken by them. The men resigned themselves as prisoners.

Dec. 16—. . . The British are now shouting about the Sound and it is expected it will be blockaded shortly.

Dec. 31—Court sets in Fairfield. There is an embargo law enacted with most rigid instructions so as to debar all intercourse whatever with England. Molasses 12 S per gal., Sugar brown 33 cts and all imported merchandise is sold at an enormous price.

#### 1814

Jan. 3—It's now a prospect of peace presents itself as I understand an English Packet has arrived with proposals which it is expected will be accepted. The price of West India produce is now rapidly falling. Sugar has been up to the enormous price of \$40.00 per 100 weight and is now fell to \$22.00 and other things in proportion. Salt from 2 dollars down to 75¢.

Mar. 7—We have training today in Mill Plain of the Mill River Volunteers.



Apr. 15—. . . part of the time with the Tailor who finished my military coat and vest. In the evening I go to fife with the drummer—there being an alarm at sunset, we were ordered with the Company to Fairfield where some were sent to stroll the beach and some staid all night at the Town House. I returned home after midnight. The Enemy's ships were only 2 and were laying off Bridgeport. On the morning of the 16th I arise and saw the Ships still laying two. I dressed myself in my new uniform and went down early and found the company dismissed until 10 by this time Capt. Baldwin had arrived with his company. I returned home again and at 10 went down and marched a part of our company from the Church to Fairfield. We remained there all day maneuvering a little, dined at Knapps and at night had orders from Brig. Gen. Foot for dismissal. The Enemy's Ships are now out of sight.

Apr. 19—. . . Received 2 dollars from Abel Beers for a military coat and 3 more are due.

Apr. 28—Went down to Drummer Beers.

May 2—Today is Training Day. We parade and train all day by the Church. Dine at Maj. S. Beers. The Music march a part of the Mill River Volunteers up and they parade with us, we have a sham fight with them, but no lives lost, though some were wounded and some guns and bayonets broken.

May 4—Today our Regiment is called together in Fairfield for general inspection by order of Gov. J. C. Smith. The Regiments of the 4th Brigade are all called out severally on this week.

Aug. 10—Today the Reg'ts officers and music assemble at the Church on Mill Plain for the purpose of practice and interview, we dine at Maj. Beers. Today the Col. issues drafting orders from our Company is taken 6 privates—Stephen Osborn, Jun., Burr Dimon, Able Beers, Walter Ogden, Ephriam Burr, John Phillips.

Sept. 30—This day is seen in the Sound 2 ships of his Britannic Majesty, in the evening there is an alarm. There being a bright moonlight this and the Greenfield Company turn out with some Volunteers and watch all night but no attempts are made to molest us.

Oct. 1—The enemy's ships be off at anchor all day, towards night they make sail for the Eastward. No alarm at night.

Oct. 31—The British are now troublesome in the Sound.

### 1815

Jan. 10—I will note they have now a guard of about 30 men stationed at Black Rock fort—and we have no news of peace as yet we have got a kind of new congress setting in Hartford with closed doors. What their motives are I know not.

Jan. 14—A rumor of peace has for some days circulated.

Jan. 20—Visit to Black Rock Fort . . . At length we arrive at Soldiers Barracks, being hailed by the guard and not knowing the countersign we

were conducted in the officers apartment by the sergeant of the guard where we were treated with much hospitality and respect. We were then conducted by the Sergeant to the parapet to take a view of their cannon after which we took our leave.

Feb. 12—Peace—Peace—word came from an express sent on to Boston which goes through our Town this day . . . Today there is considerable firing from every port on account of the peaceful news.

Feb. 24—Peace is celebrated in Fairfield and a joyful day indeed. The maneuvers of the day began with 18 guns from the parapet answered by 18 from a brass piece on Fairfield Green—after breakfast I walk down and fall in with the procession following a boat drawn from Mill River by a host of boys and rigged out with many flags and colors after some simple maneuvers and the displaying of colors in triumphal arches across the street together with the soldiery of Fort Union commanded by Lieut. Hanford, attracted many peoples attention by their expert exercises about 11 o'clock the Meeting House was opened and a procession was formed headed by the Priests and presidents of the Day viz Colonel G. Burr, president, Mr. Shelton makes the prayers and Mr. Humphrey addresses the people upon the joyful occasion, some Psalms are sung, chorded with instruments shouting the praises of Redeeming love—from thence the procession is again formed and we march around the Court House and into the Academy where we partake of a sumptuous dinner for which we pay one dollar per man. The weather being very cold and the snow now begins to fall and continues through the day—the Ox was carried into the Court House and there carved and I believe principally ate up. About 5 or 6 hundred ladies dined by turns in the Court Room. The day was closed by the National Salute as it had begun. In the evening it hailed by the light of 18 tar barrels which are put on sparrs sat on a pyramid in a conical form—sending forth flames and smoke while the huzaha of the beholders echo through each ear—the day or rather the night closes with a ball at J. Knapp's—each house in the Main Street being illuminated brightly.

May 1—We train as usual. Jesse Banks to assist me in the blowing the fife and we have three drummers—viz the Major, P. Beers and the Major's apprentice. Mr. Celick the singer. We dine at Knapp's.

Aug. 22—Today the Regiment of officers meets in Fairfield.

Sept. 4—Training Day and very cool indeed for the season with but little sunshine. The proceedings are as usual only that we dine at S. Nicholas's and fare sumptuously upon dead hogs and baked pigs, etc. Hezekiah Davis chosen 4th Corporal, James Beers 4th Sergeant.

Sept. 8—Today the Officers and music of our Regiment meet in Weston.



Sept. 15—Today our Regiment, with a Regiment of Horse train upon ground near Jesse Wakeman's in Weston and we have jovial times on our return.

1816

May 6—This is Training Day, I serve as a fifer under Captain Sherwood but have the assistance of Major Wood from Danbury, he is an extraordinary fifer by which means I receive some ease of duty. We dine at Knapp's Hotel.

In the Town Records one finds no mention of the War of 1812 as such but on October 17, 1814 it was voted that "the Inhabitants of the Town build a Powder House" and also "that there be a Committee of 5 persons appointed with discretionary power to erect and superintend the building of a Powder House at the expense of this Town with all apparatus necessary for the preservation of the munitions of war and to place the same in such place as the Committee may direct and that the moderator be requested to name said Committee."—Samuel Rowland, Esq., Aaron Sherwood, Esq., Sullivan Moulton, Jeremiah Sturges, Abraham G. Jennings being named by the Moderator.

The Powder House was built according to plan and still stands today at the rear of Roger Ludlowe High School on Unquowa Road, overlooking the New Haven Railroad tracks.

We do find however that the Peace was rejoicingly celebrated on Friday, February 24, 1815 with the roasting of a whole ox on the green and 18 tar tubs being burned atop poles for the celebration. Some 150 gentlemen were served a "sumptuous repast" in the long upstairs room of the Old Academy. The ladies dined at the Court House. There was a gay ball held at Knapp's Tavern on the north corner of the Green that same evening. The day had started with an 18 gun salute from the Artillery and this was repeated at 4 P.M. There was a short address delivered at the Meeting House by Rev. Herman Humphrey, minister of the First Society. A boat was drawn through the street during the afternoon. All houses were gaily illuminated in the evening.

It was further reported that it was good sleighing that day! Isn't it fun to let your mind wander back to that day and to see the more than 100 sleighs with their horses tethered about the Green, to smell the savory aroma of the roasting ox and to hear the great shouts of joy ringing through the very crisp winter air? A very severe snowstorm closed the day.

There was also a bountiful supper served and

ball held at Molly Pike's Tavern in Mill River (Southport). The older folks arranged this the report relates.

The people of Fairfield felt the aftermath of the War rather severely for some had been very active in shipping and trade and found that the sudden sharp decline in prices for West Indian goods to just half in a matter of two or three days caused great losses for them.

Rev. Lyman Atwater said of this War: "The late War (1812) also, as all wars of necessity must, occasioned great distress among these people, on account of their interest in navigation and other causes, so that the return of peace was hailed by a public feast, by bonfires and illuminations".

The Connecticut Directory for 1812 shows interesting bits concerning our Town. Fairfield's people were active throughout the State.

Yale College:

Rev. Timothy Dwight S.T.D., LL. D., President  
and Professor of Divinity  
Jeremiah Day A.M., Professor of Mathematics  
and Natural Philosophy  
Benjamin Silliman A.M., Professor of Chemistry  
and Mineralogy  
James L. Kingsley A.M., Professor of Languages  
and Ecclesiastical History.

The directory for the same year shows the following officers for the Bridgeport Bank:

Isaac Bronson, Esq.	President
George Hoyt	Cashier
Directors:	
Isaac Bronson	William Peet
John S. Cannon	Joseph Nichols
Salmon Hubbell	Isaac Hinman
Samuel W. Johnson	Ebenezer Jesup, Jr.
Elijah Boardman	

Rev. Timothy Dwight, S.T.D. and LL.D. who had preached at the Greenfield Hill Congregational Church from 1783 to 1795 and had established the Dwight Academy across the Greenfield Green where, more than 1000 pupils studied Latin, Greek, Calculus, Surveying and Navigation, had been called to become President of Yale in 1795. Students came from many states in the southern and central parts of our country as well as from Canada, South America and France to take work under Dwight at Greenfield. Many of those listed later became leaders of their time. There was DeBois from France, Joel R. Poinsett<sup>1</sup> afterwards minister to Mexico and Secretary of War under Van Buren, Dexter of

<sup>1</sup> The Poinsettia was named for Mr. Poinsett as he discovered it in Mexico in 1828.



Newburyport, Charles Denison of New Haven, William Williams of Norwich, Hancock from North Carolina, Charles Hobby Pond of Milford, afterwards Lt. Governor of Connecticut, Wilson and Philo Hubbell of Bridgeport, Capers from South Carolina, Henry Baldwin, afterwards Justice of the United States Supreme Court, A. Tomlinson, Dr. Roger's daughters, the three Misses Burr of Fairfield, Miss Young of Bridgeport, Sally Nichols from Newtown, David Hill, Ezekial Webb, Jonathan Pomeroy, Parson Bartlett, Lemuel Sanford of Redding, David Rogers, Abraham Davenport of Stamford, two Henry Livingstones from Poughkeepsie, James Anaram of Richmond and many, many others.

Rev. Jeremiah Day, D.D. followed Dr. Dwight at the Academy and later followed him to Yale, first as instructor and later as President.

Dr. Bronson who had been a surgeon in the Revolutionary War, bought the Timothy Dwight home on Bronson Road in Greenfield after Rev. Dwight had been called to New Haven to become President of Yale.

Following the close of the War of 1812, a great revival of Religion was in progress in Fairfield and the surrounding area. According to one report "a revival of religion commences among the youths of Fairfield (especially the boys between 10 to 14 years of age)—about the same time some attention to divine things is excited among the youths at Bridgeport". This revival continued for some twenty years. Church membership rose sharply—"42 entered the Church at one time" and "100 entered the Church today" and another "50 entered the church" and "40 entered the church" the reports showed. Meetings were held for 14 days at a time. 1815—Jonathan Bulkley recorded in his diary: "Mr. Fowler preached or read a lecture last evening at the schoolhouse to a very crowded assembly, it is reported that religion is every day reviving in this wicked Mill River—I really do hope we are a growing better . . .".

There were camp meetings in other areas and people from here attended them. I read of one attended by 40 who went on the sloop—Morning Star. It left Mill River on Thursday and did not return until Sunday. The people once again were seeking divine guidance for their daily tasks.

The collection of highway taxes was still a problem in 1815. Each surveyor had to account for his highway book by the last Monday of November with the Selectmen on "penalty of

\$3.34 for refusal or neglect". The rate was  $4\frac{1}{2}\%$  on a \$1.00 and collected parishwise. Each collector was given a bond with surety. The collectors were chosen that year according to "who would do it for the lowest sum". Voted: "On the offer of Samuel O. Seeley to collect said tax in the parish of Stratfield for  $2\frac{1}{2}\%$  per cent thereof on the monies by him actually collected that he be the collector for said parish".

Robert Knapp was chosen to collect for the Society of Fairfield for 2 per cent. Thomas I. Rowland was chosen to collect for the Parish of Greens Farms for 2 per cent and Mr. Rowland was also given the Parish of Greenfield at  $2\frac{1}{2}\%$  per cent commission.

The following year the collectors were Abel Hubbell Jr. in Stratfield at 1¢ 4 mills; Robert Knapp in Fairfield at 9 mills on the dollar; Burr Meeker in Greens Farms at 1¢ 5 mills; and Robert Knapp in Greenfield at 1¢ 8 mills.

Gideon Tomlinson represented the town again and again in numerous ways during that period and as we know became Governor of the State of Connecticut for four years, United States Senator for six years, member of the House of Representatives for nine years and lived on Bronson Road in Greenfield—just south of the Church. This marked another contribution of Fairfield to the leadership of the entire country.

In the winter of 1817 there was extreme cold and the Harbors were said to be frozen as far as one could see and sleighing was good. The ice on the fresh water was one and one-half feet thick. This was the most severe winter since 1805. Corn was being sold for \$2.00 per bushel and rye \$1.50 per bushel.

In 1817 the aggregate list of the town amounted to \$86,872, there were 16 primary schools—one in each district and three academies which were said to be well established and respectable. The three would include the Old Academy so called on the Old Post Road, the Dwight Academy on Greenfield Hill and one in Black Rock. There were two Social Libraries—one in the Society of Fairfield and one in Greenfield.

There were four societies at this point: The Society of Fairfield, The Society of Greenfield, The Society of Greens Farms, and The Society of Stratfield.

That year many forsook their native Fairfield to seek greener fields in "New Connecticut"—in Ohio. These venturesome souls were looked upon with a bit of awe by those who remained at home. They hated to see their friends and



neighbors go.

The Bulkley diary showed several interesting entries at that period and I repeat them for their real value in again revealing to us the manners and modes.

Mrs. Gould Turney and children, her mother, sister Amelia and Brother Monson set out Wednesday Oct. 1, 1817 under the protection and direction of a Mr. Thomas Hill bound from the land of steady habits to the western world where all surplus inhabitants of New England are fast drifting to a place called Louisburgh on the Ohio by the way of Pittsburgh to her husband who is there and sent for her—a distance of about 1500 miles—a loss.

December 1817.

A letter was received by Mrs. Deborah Bennet a few days since from Mrs. Marietta Turney, saying herself, mother and children had arrived safe at Louisville went down the Ohio from Pittsburgh in the steamboat James Munro, commanded by Capt. Turney her husband. They have commenced house-keeping next neighbor to the Rev. Chapman Banks. Mrs. Turney writes she has not had occasion to regret leaving old Fairfield as yet she was accompanied down the Ohio by a number of Fairfield folks.

July 1818.

M. J. Wakeman arrived home from New Connecticut Wednesday July 15 bringing letters and news from Capt. Squire and family of their being in good health and fine prospects and that Adeline was married to a Mr. Brooks and Ruth engaged.

On November 18, 1817 the new Black Rock Academy was raised—the size 30' x 20'.

In 1818 the U. S. Gazeteer had this to say about Fairfield:

Fairfield—Port of Entry—Population 4,126. The village is very pleasantly situated on Mill River a little above its entrance into the sound, and contains a court house, an academy and a Congregational Meeting House and has considerable trade. The shipping belonging to this port in 1816 amounted to 7,033 tons. In the township there are 5 churches, 3 for Congregationalists, 1 for Episcopalians and 1 for Baptists.

On February 19, 1818 it was voted that "Mr. Sturges Ogden have power and he is requested to take charge of the great oak tree standing in the publick highway near his barn and preserve it for a shade for publick use during the pleasure of the town". A picture of the old white oak is included in the picture section here. It stood on the west side of Bronson Road at the entrance of Oaklawn Cemetery. Tree experts believed the tree to be well over 500 years old in the 1930's and it was estimated at that time that it would last another century or two. The circumference measured 15 feet 8 inches, the diameter 5 feet and raised its branches 70 feet in the air. Many

a horse rider and many a pedestrian had paused beneath those great spreading branches to be refreshed before continuing on his journey north or south.

In 1939, this poem by Mrs. Gertrude F. O'Neill who lived at the time just across from the old oak appeared in the newspaper—The Fairfield News. The tribute to the old oak was a part of the Tercentenary celebration of the Town.

#### THE OLD OAK SPEAKS

The following is a contributed poem by Mrs. Gertrude F. O'Neill. "It seems to me," she writes, "at this time when all things old in Fairfield are being honored, our very oldest 'inhabitant' should be honored also." The "oldest living thing" is the old oak standing at the gate of Restmore, on Bronson Road.—Editor's note.

I am Fairfield's oldest living thing  
Of all its trees I am the King.  
Here I stood a century and more  
Ere Roger Ludlowe reached our shore.  
Beneath the shelter of my boughs  
The Indians held council and many pow-wows.  
I grew by the road to Greenfield Hill  
When the hill was but a green field still;  
I saw the hill-men march to the wars  
To fight so bravely for freedom's cause.  
I stood there when time-honored Timothy Dwight  
Came to teach children to read and write.  
And there to the South within my view  
George Washington feasted and rested too.  
Just yonder to the East aged and gray  
Is the Town's oldest house, some folk say.  
I've seen Fairfield grow to a beautiful Town  
Its beauties in Nature's best abound.  
No date-plate adorns my wide old trunk  
Yet deep into my bark is sunk  
The scars of many a long lost limb  
My boughs are crooked, my foliage thin.  
I am Fairfield's oldest living thing  
Of all its trees I am the King!

By Gertrude F. O'Neill  
Bronson Road

When Congress adopted a new design for the flag in 1818, Mrs. Reid of Fairfield, wife of Captain S. C. Reid, a naval officer and daughter of Captain Nathan Jennings, made the first banner in accordance therewith, the design being her husband's.

In 1819 there were 2 post offices, 4,137 people, 550 dwelling houses, 6 religious societies and 16 school districts in Fairfield. It was listed as an ancient maritime post town and the semi-seat of justice of the County. The Township included 54 square miles being 9 miles long and 6 miles wide.

It was said that there were no minerals in town except several quarries of freestone which



was valuable for building and other purposes. In the Greenfield Society, "the most important is at Blue Stone Hill about one mile north of Greenfield village". This would have been at about the spot where Congress Street meets Brett Road.

It was said that wood and timber were of real value in the town and commanded a high price. The timber which grew upon the Sound was less porous and tougher than that in the interior. The natural growth of timber included oak of various kinds, hickory, chestnut, maple, birch, etc. Black birch was growing in great abundance at that time. Timber "at the landing" per cord was quoted as: hickory \$5.00, oak \$4.00, chestnut rails \$5.00 per 100. Indian corn was the staple of the town and potatoes were raised in large quantities and sent to the New York market. Rye, oats and grass were cultivated and fruits of various kinds received attention.

Seaweed and sedge or salt grass which grew in the salt marshes near the Sound afforded a valuable and inexhaustable manure and the salt hay was used for bedding for cattle.

The mode of cultivation was principally by oxen. A yoke of oxen and a horse made up a team. The number of teams in the Stratfield Parish alone were said to be between 60-70 with as many carts and ploughs.

Then, large quantities of peat were also found in several of the swamps which supplied a valuable manure. Peat was also used for fuel purposes.

Three Harbors were mentioned—one at Black Rock, Mill River and another at Saugatuck. Mill River, Sasco River and Ash Creek were navigable for nearly three miles. Black Rock Harbor was surpassed only by New London and measured 19 feet of water below the middle ground at the summer tides. In that area Fairweather's Island belonging to the United States Government and the "Cows", a point of rocks extending a mile into the Sound were visible on all maps of the period. Vessels were able to enter and depart from that harbor at any time of the tide. The Fort—erected on the hill at the entrance of the Harbor for the Revolutionary War was manned by a small body of militia as a garrison. The cannon for the Fort was supplied by the United States. The Harbor would often be frozen "out as far as one could see". Six coasters sailed for Boston that Spring (1819) and all were owned there. There were 28 sailors listed for Black Rock for that year and 14 of them were

Captains. There was much typhoid fever that year and many died.

Mill River Harbor was very commodious for the coasting trade but was not sufficiently deep to admit large vessels. The Harbor as we know it was formed by the River of the same name on which within a distance of two miles stood three large grain mills, two fulling mills and two carding machines. The Harbor was seldom frozen.

The Saugatuck Harbor in 1819 which was formed by the Saugatuck River was adequate for ordinary coasters to get about.

During the period there were 2500 tons of shipping owned in Fairfield. Oysters and clams were taken in great numbers but had declined by this time because they had not been allowed to attain their full growth. Shad and fin fish were also present in the waters.

The manufactures of the Town were said not to be extensive but the milling business was carried on to some extent. Nine grain mills were listed and four of these were on the Tide Water. Each had several sets of stones which were employed principally in flouring wheat which was brought from other States. Some of the mills had kilns for drying Indian corn which was afterward made into meal for the foreign markets. The other five mills were erected on streams of water. There were two manufacturing establishments of wool and cotton which had flourished during the Revolutionary War but had since declined. There were five canneries, twenty-five retailing mercantile stores and two fulling mills and clothiers works.

Typhoid fever was very prevalent that year and a special way of collecting Church funds was instituted. "Sunday June 10, 1819 was the first time that contribution boxes were hung on the outside of the door at the Meeting House for to raise money to educate clergymen there appears by the statement made to be a great deficiency, this manner of placing the boxes is in order to evade the law as that prohibits contribution except by special act of the legislature and to be made known by the Proclamation of the Governor".

That same year lightning struck the Stratfield Meeting House rod within two feet of the ground and broke one window on April 18. The Harbors were full of mackerel that year, the first that had been seen in 40 years. On October 20, 1819 William Wheeler entered in his journal—"Innumerable number of small mackerel—the harbor seems to be alive with them—very few have



been seen for forty years past—then there was a like number and they were larger—their food goes with them being very small fish, and of a shining appearance in infinite numbers—2500 mackerel were caught in the sieve at a haul this day and as many more ran through it. Fifty might be caught by a hook and line in a tide by a single person—they had been taken in the Sound about a week before—warm and pleasant weather”.

For October 15, 1819, Jonathan Bulkley made this entry in his diary for Mill River—“Small mackerel is very plentiful in Long Island Sound—at this time—a boat with three men caught 500 this day—the water appears to be full”.

On December 19, the first hard northeast storm since the preceding Spring came. What little rain had fallen upon the Town had come from the Southwest—and this as we know is not a good corner for the abundance of moisture. A great drought had been present throughout the summer and fall. There had been no water in the valleys and scarcely any in the wells. The roads had been entirely hard and dry for many months which was a real change for the muddy season as the folks all knew annually very well. December was said to be warm and pleasant for the most part and the cattle were feeding on the grass which had been green for the season.

The Tax Collectors were to have 3% on all monies collected and the annual Town meetings were to be held at 1 o'clock in the afternoon instead of at 10 o'clock in the morning.

Jonathan Bulkley made this entry for Monday, September 3, 1821—“Monday Eve Sept. 3, 1821. Experienced at Mill River & along the Coast a hurricane such as was never known before by the oldest inhabitants. The gale from the E.S.E. shifting to S.W. commencing about 7 o'clock and abating about half past 10 in the evening blew down chimneys, corn houses, fences, trees & greater damage among the shipping done at Quarantine Station Island likewise in the City of New York many lives lost on the bank of Long Island accounts say upwards of 90 dead bodies have come on shore”.

The needed care of the roads and bridges still shown brightly on the problem horizon and attracted necessarily so much attention. A special tax was levied again each year to carry out the repairs and general work. Hull Sherwood made this entry in his diary for Saturday, Feb. 20, 1818, “this day the Selectmen of Fairfield surveyed and laid out the road which leads from

James and Stephen Perry's house to intersect the old road on Sasco Hill and likewise looked at the contemplated road from Mr. Alvord's store to the turnpike 154 rods round and 34 rods cross 120 rods difference. Selectmen to report next Town Meeting.” In 1823 three persons in each Parish district were given the responsibility of mending the highways. It was voted that “Seymour Taylor, Aaron Sherwood and Banks Wakeman be chosen for the Parish of Greens Farms; Zalmon Wakeman, William Sherwood Jr. and A. D. Baldwin<sup>1</sup> be chosen for the Parish of Greenfield; Jeremiah Sturges, Sam Rowland and Walter Thorp be chosen for the Parish of Fairfield; Robert Wilson, Sam Warden and Sam O. Seeley be chosen for the Parish of Stratfield to be a committee for the above purpose”. Any surveyor of the highway who neglected his duty was fined \$7.00. He had to return his highway tax book to the Selectman in the parish to which he belonged on or before the 20th day of November and to render an account to the Selectmen at the time he returned his book of all the taxes collected and laid out by him. A special book for the purpose was given to each surveyor.

The next year, 1824, the list of Surveyors of Highways grew even larger. These were shown: Charles Sherwood, Sam O. Seeley, Sam Morehouse, Jesup Banks, Abm. Wilson, Alden Wilson for Jennings Woods district; David Wilson for West district; Elijah Bibbins for Holland district; Thaddeus Burr for Black Rock district; Sam Wakeman for road No. 4; Joshua Green for Stone Bridge district; Roger M. Sherwood for Middle district; Sam A. Nichols for East Bridge district; Walter Sherwood for Godfrey Bridge district; John Hull for Mill Plain district; N. B. Alvord, Hull Sherwood for Mill Hill district; John S. Wilson for Holland Hill district; Sam Beers for Westfield district. In Greenfield Parish—Gideon Tomlinson for district No. 1, William Sherwood for N. 2, Uriah Hubbell for No. 3, Abm. D. Baldwin No. 4, David Burr No. 5, Sam Wheeler No. 6, Timothy Burr No. 7, William Bulkley for No. 8, John Staples for No. 9, Zalmon Wakeman for No. 10, Zalmon Bradley for No. 11, Abm. Banks for No. 12, David Smith

<sup>1</sup> Capt. Abraham D. Baldwin was a distinguished lawyer who served our Country as Senator from Connecticut, helped form the Constitution of the United States and was the founder of the University of Georgia.

The following inscription is on his tombstone in the old Burying Ground on Bronson Road.

“Abraham Baldwin lies buried in Washington  
His memory needs no marble  
His country is his monument  
Her Constitution his greatest work”



for No. 13, Hezekiah Ogden for No. 14, Sam Murwin for No. 15, Levi Osborn for No. 16. In Greens Farms Parish—Burr Meeker for No. 1, Jos. Bennett for No. 2, Silas Meeker for No. 3, Zalmon Bulkley for No. 4, Eben Beers for No. 6, Joseph Hyde for No. 5, Jesse Jennings for No. 7, Charles Wakeman No. 8 and Wakeman Couch for No. 9.

The religious revival in the area was continuing. There were large out of door camp meetings and two to three thousand would gather to hear a preacher of note. As one looks through todays hymnals, there are ever so many hymns from that period.

The boats returned again with cargo from the West Indies, making the round trip in about 13 weeks. Materials on board might include 61 hogshead of rum, fruit, and molasses.

In February 1824, a Comet which had been visible over Fairfield for some two months disappeared. On August 20, 1824, General Lafayette passed through Fairfield on his way to Boston and it was said that multitudes assembled to see him. That was a Friday evening and he had arrived at 10 o'clock. He stopped at W. Knapps Inn for about an hour, "took a cold bit" and then went on to Bridgeport where he spent the night.

Once again on May 5, 1825, the question of decreasing the size of Fairfield came up and it was voted "that the petition of John Hyde and others to the General Assembly of this State now in session praying that the Town of Fairfield may be divided and that the Society of Greens Farms and a part of the Town of Weston may be incorporated into a new town ought not to be granted, and . . . that Hon. David Hill be the agent of the above . . . ordered that the Town Clerk enter on the records of the Town the above vote was passed by 178 votes in the affirmative and that none appeared in the negative.

On April 26, 1826 they voted again to oppose the Greens Farms petition. At that time there were twenty buildings in Southport.

In December 1828 it was decided to put the Town Room in the Court House in a "good state of repair" and that the "benches belonging there to be collected". Three years later the Selectmen were directed to seat this room "permanently". In 1836 it was voted—"that the Town Room in the Court House in the future be the place of holding Election meetings instead of the Meeting House as heretofore practiced".

A few years later in the Town Room, altera-

tions were made to allow the election meetings to run more smoothly.

On April 19, 1830, it was voted "to authorize the Selectmen to put such of the poor children as are cast upon the town for support under the care of the Female Beneficent Association of Fairfield".

And further that—"75¢ per week be allowed for their support while under the care of the Association—for board and schooling—the town be saved harmless of the expense of clothing". The children went to school in Black Rock.

In 1833 on August 13 a Fair was held at the Old Academy for the benefit of the poor children and \$250.00 was realized. That was the first Fair ever held in Town. According to the late Mrs. Kipper's reminiscences "All men and women had a mind to work. The gentlemen were very busy that afternoon setting tables, renewing refreshments prepared by the ladies of the town, and in various ways making themselves useful as well as ornamental. The late Mr. and Mrs. John Glover were boarding that summer in Greenfield. Mrs. Glover furnished the ice cream. We were all anticipating its arrival, the first ever made in this vicinity. At last it came nicely packed in the freezer and in a large basket of salt hay. It took about 20 minutes to dispose of it in small wine glasses, at a "York" shilling a glass (about 12¢). It was pronounced by all who had the good fortune to secure a glass the most delicious they ever tasted—no exaggeration as it was their first experience in that delicacy".

During the winter of 1831-32 there were frequent flashings of the northern lights showing through the sky. These early people were so aware of all of nature which was around them.

On Feb. 12, 1831, an eclipse of the sun was visible in Fairfield. The sun's center was eclipsed for one hour and thirty-two minutes and Venus was visible to the naked eye. The entire duration of the eclipse lasted three hours and four minutes.

On September 29, 1831, there were many mackerel in Black Rock Harbor. Three sieves were said to be going at once. A boy six years old caught two fish in a minute with his hook. It was truly a novel sight to see. Mr. Penfield took five bushels in one haul.

On September 21, 1832 a whale 20 feet in length and 13 feet circumference was found on the bar in Black Rock Harbor and taken. They were able to get only three gallons of oil from the whale. It is interesting to know that on Oct.



28, 1833, just over a year later, a ship sailed out of this harbor seeking whales—the first to go for these from this port.

In 1833 James Knapp was listed as the Postmaster and the Postage Rates for that time were all based on a single letter which was assumed to be one sheet of paper. The cost to carry that letter amounted to:

Any distance not exceeding 36 miles .....	6¢
Over 36 miles not exceeding 80 miles .....	10¢
Over 80 miles not exceeding 150 miles .....	12½¢
Over 150 miles not exceeding 400 miles .....	18¾¢
Over 500 miles not exceeding .....	25¢
Double letters (2 pieces of paper) double rates	
Triple letters (3 pieces of paper) triple rates	
Quadruple letters (4 pieces of paper) quadruple rates	

Stages, horseback and sulkies were used to transport the mail on the 2500 miles of Post Roads in Connecticut. The story goes that as the Stage running from New York to Boston approached the old Penfield Tavern at a mile distant, the boys would run as fast as they could to meet the coach and get a ride up to the old tavern on the stage.

The Phi Beta Kappa Society of Connecticut listed as its officers for 1833:

Hon. Roger M. Sherman, President  
Prof. Jonathan Knight, Vice President  
Aaron K. Skinner, Corresponding Secretary  
Charles Hooker M.D., Treasurer

Fairfield again being well represented.

On the 15th of June of that year numerous Fairfielders went to Bridgeport to see President Andrew Jackson who spent the morning there.

It was also reported that on November 12, 1833, there were hundreds of falling meteors over the area. They came from all directions all over the horizon, falling as fast as you could count—some of them were large and some of them left a trail like a stream of lightning. They fell for several hours that evening.

There were many fish in Black Rock Harbor that summer. It was said that on May 15, 36,000 fish were caught, 20,000 in a single haul on May 27, 52,000 on May 30—36,000 were caught in one haul—all blackbellies.

In 1834, Bridgeport started its efforts to remove the County Seat from Fairfield to Bridgeport. There were many complaints offered but one of the loudest ones proclaimed that it was difficult to obtain good and sufficient food at Fairfield. This was a strange accusation for Fairfield had long since been noted for its bountiful hospitality. To quell this thought Judge

Osborn, one of the counsel at the committee hearing of the General Assembly brought in as witnesses Squire Rowland, Tom Bulkley, Sheriff Dimon and a few others, each of whom weighed between 200-300 pounds and introduced them to the committee as evidence that good living was preponderate in Fairfield and that ended that particular complaint.

1835 brought the Palmer worms to the Town. They stayed about three weeks and found the apple trees, the oak trees and the quince bushes to be favorite spots of refuge. During their stay they destroyed all of the apples for the season. According to Mr. Neely Turner, Chief Entomologist at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven, Palmer worms are:

THE CONNECTICUT  
AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

Office and Laboratories, 123 Huntington Street  
New Haven, Connecticut  
Experimental Farm, Evergreen Avenue, Mt. Carmel  
Tobacco Laboratory, Windsor  
P. O. Box 1106, New Haven 4, Conn.

March 12, 1959

Dear Miss Banks:

Mr. LeRoy Chapman, Fairfield County Agent, has sent your letter about palmer worms to me for reply.

The common name palmerworm has been adopted officially for the moth *Dichomeris ligulella* Hbn. This common name was borrowed from England, where it has been in use for centuries. In the Old Testament some translations use palmer worm, and the concordances define the term as referring to any caterpillar which occurs in large numbers. English dictionaries define palmer worms in the same way.

I have taken a quick look in some of our older books, and thus far have not found any reference to a destructive outbreak of caterpillars in your vicinity recorded for 1835. The most likely species would be one of the canker worms. Old records tell of an outbreak that defoliated the maples on the New Haven Green in 1838. Serious outbreaks of this pest in more recent times have lasted two or three years. It seems possible that the palmer worm in your records may be what we call the canker worm today. I am sending you an account of this pest published some years ago, which is accurate as to biology and habits, but out of date for control measures.

Our librarian is looking through journals published in 1835, and if we find any more definite records I will send them to you. I am also sending a history of agriculture which might be of some use to you.

Sincerely yours,  
Neely Turner,  
Chief Entomologist.

The December 16, 1835 fire in New York could be seen very plainly from Fairfield. The fire which destroyed more than 600 buildings lighted up the sky for more than 15 hours. It was



an extremely cold day with the thermometer registering 12° below zero. The cold weather held for weeks and more and more of the Sound froze over. On February 3, 1835, the steamboat was unable to pass and came into Black Rock Harbor. The sleighing too was said to be fine. The market vessels were not able to move from any port until the middle of March.

In 1838 the barque "Harvest" arrived in Black Rock Harbor from Whaling and had \$8,000 on board, 4,800 pounds of whale bone and 150 barrels of sperm oil.

Fairfield Village in 1838 had 100 dwellings, a Court House and jail, a Congregational Church and an academy. It was the shire town of the County. Half of the Courts however sat in Danbury. Southport or Mill River as it was knowingly called, had at this time 60-70 dwellings, eight stores, an academy, a post office, a bank and an Episcopal Church. More shipping was owned in Mill River in proportion to its size than at any other place between New York and Boston. The Harbor was small then but was sufficient to float vessels of about 100 tons burthen, \$10,000 had been granted by the United States Government in 1831 for the Harbor's improvement.

In 1839, the New England Gazetteer described Fairfield in the following way—

*Fairfield, Ct.*

Shire town, Fairfield co. This ancient and patriotic town comprises three parishes, Fairfield, the seat of justice, Green's Farms and Greenfield. Fairfield lies 21 miles S.W. from New Haven, and 58 N.E. from New York. Population, 1830, 4,246. Its Indian name was Uncoway. The surface of the town is undulating and very pleasant. The soil is fertile, well cultivated and productive of wheat and rye, and a great variety of fruits and vegetables for New York market. Black Rock harbor is safe and easy of entrance for vessels drawing 19 feet of water at common tides. The tide usually rises in Long Island Sound about 5 feet. There is but little water power in Fairfield, except that produced by the tide. The tonnage of Fairfield district, in 1837, was 11,988 tons. The principal business in navigation is the coasting trade.

New England Gazetteer—1839.

The question of the annexation of Greens Farms to Westport was brought to the attention of the towns folks once again in 1839 and on April 30 they voted to continue to oppose the move. At the same meeting the proposal of a railroad going through Fairfield was presented. The citizens voted to do nothing about it.

Seaweed was also discussed at length at the April 30 meeting. Seaweed was used for fertili-

zer and great loads were taken from the beaches for that purpose. My Dad told me that he remembered taking loads from McKenzie's Point and going up the steep hill to Sasco Hill Road. It was all the oxen (and horses later) could do to get up the hill with a big load for the Seaweed was so wet and so heavy. The farmers helped each other get up the hill by hitching their oxen together—doubling up their teams. They then dumped their loads at the top of the hill and then returned to the beach for another load while the tide was low. The road left much to be desired so that it was a very difficult pull. After getting it home, they would spread it around on the ground and it would disintegrate completely. He said that there would almost be a hole in the ground where it was put for it all "went to pieces".

Hull Sherwood mentioned going for seaweed several times. Often they would start out at 3 o'clock in the morning for an early tide. It was usually a June job. It was further voted at the meeting just mentioned that "No person can hold any sea weed or other swift stuff which may float on the Beach in this Town other than that which he puts into his cart or other vehicle of conveyance and removes from said Beach—this vote to be published in a paper printed in Bridgeport".

On Jan. 13, 1840 the Steamboat Lexington burned on Long Island Sound about 2 miles off Southport. The steamer had been formerly owned by Commodore Vanderbilt and was the fastest and most popular passenger boat on Long Island Sound. That was on the boat's regular trip from New York to Stonington. 120 people lost their lives. It was said that \$18,000 in specie was on board, \$10,000 of the same being in gold in an iron trunk. The burning vessel was plainly visible early in the evening and the wharves of Black Rock and Mill River were crowded with persons eager to help but the tide was low. The only sloop in Mill River Harbor was Meeker and Sherwood's "Merchant" and because of the tide it could not be moved. The local seamen did set out in rowboats that stormy night but to no avail as they could not get out far enough. The "Merchant" did go out as soon as the tide permitted only to find that three living persons remained on floating portions of the cargo. Stephen Manchester, pilot of the steamer was found on top of a bale of cotton. One other eventually reached Long Island. One finds it of real interest to note that one of the very first



Currier and Ives prints ever done was of this disaster and appeared in the New York Sun soon after the fire<sup>1</sup>. One of these very rare prints is in the collection of the Fairfield Historical Society and hangs on the wall there.

A passing vessel it is said, which might have saved many lives did not stop because its Captain feared the delay would prevent him from promptly making port.

Steamboats were very popular means of travel. Mr. Jonathan Bulkley recorded this adventure.

Nov. 13, 1845 this day J. Bulkley set out for New York by the way of Norwalk on board the Steam Boat Catiline in Company from Southport Brother Andrew and Charles F. Robinson Esqr., W. W. Wakeman, M. A. Sherwood, Henry Perry & wife, & Rev. W. Thorp, (Methodist Minister). On our passage about half way from Port Chester to Sand Point in the middle of the Sound a small portion of the machinery gave way and it broke up the whole concern, so that the passengers were very much alarmed for fear the boilers might explode and the machine go through the bottom of the boat. The Steamboat Hero from New Haven fortunately being about 5 miles astern of us bound to New York soon came along side and took off the passengers and freight and towed the Boat into Hart Island and left her at anchor all on board considered it a fortunate escape. I arrived in New York about half past 3 o'clock and found my friends all well.

He also told on Feb. 6, 1846—"At this time an opposition line of Steamboats running to New York and the fare reduced to 12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>¢ by one line (Peck's) and the other line 50¢".

In 1840 it was said that the fare between New Haven and New York reached the low of 1 cent only for each passenger because of opposition. How long this lasted we do not know.

Hull Sherwood reported as early as April 8, 1815—"there is now a steamboat which runs through the sound daily".

Jonathan Bulkley mentioned it even earlier: "Sun. Nov. 7, 1813. There is opposite this place a steamboat bound to New York. The first I ever saw in the Sound. She passes very fast. It is about 1 P.M."

There were 100 sails a day passing Fairfield at this time—brigs, schooners, ships, sloops and the steamboat.

The petition to have Greens Farms become part of Westport again appeared on the Town Meeting agenda—that time on May 11, 1840 and the opposition held once more. There was

also a proposal at this meeting to move the Court House and Jail to Bridgeport or to Norwalk. This was opposed as well. The Selectmen were ordered "to purchase a stove and cause it to be fitted to the lower room of the Court House".

There were hundreds of lightning bugs that year and the town was blessed with a great abundance of crops—corn, grass, potatoes, and apples excelled everywhere. 5,000 bushels of corn were sent out from Southport in one cargo that year. Cider was selling for \$2.50 a barrel.

On May 7, 1842 a group asked to divide Fairfield into two towns. Burrs Highway to Mill River to the lane to the beach near McKenzie's Point to be the dividing line. The Town opposed this generally at the General Assembly. The Town also opposed the Greens Farms Petition again in the General Assembly at the same time. They voted further to oppose the petition of the Housatonic Railroad to go through the Town of Fairfield and continue on into New York.

These were very difficult days for the Townspeople and money was extremely scarce. There were many bankruptcies. William Wheeler made the entry in his Journal for July 4, 1842—"Frequent bankruptcies occur—hay much damaged".

Rev. Lyman Atwater, pastor of the First Church of Christ preached on the subject one Sunday. A few quotes from that sermon:

. . . Temptations incident to the sudden loss of property—to a general state of chaotic commercial revolution—to a period of universal extravagance and luxury and rash enterprise, and delirious speculation, and imaginary wealth succeeded by unparalleled depression, impoverishment and bankruptcy I counsel you, then

1. To lay these things deeply to heart
2. To the most solemn and faithful self-searching
3. To extraordinary watchfulness, circumspection and prayer.

Owe no man one thing which you cannot readily liquidate. Pay to all their righteous dues . . . Be just before you are indulgent to yourselves, or your households, or generous to others. Be not ensnared by the cares of the world, or the deceitfulness of riches. Prepare yourselves for the worst, be thankful for the least. Make your wants few, and do not even think of an engagement which you cannot fulfill, unless prevented by some dispensation beyond the ordinary cause of Providence, which could not reasonably have been anticipated. While you stick fast in your integrity, harass not yourselves with anxieties about the future. Let the morrow take care of itself. Trust in God and his infallible word. In all things, by prayer and supplication, make known your requests unto God; and he who hears the raven's cry will not see the righteous forsaken, or their seed begging bread. So shall you be as Mount Zion that can never be moved.

<sup>1</sup> Daniel Webster failed to be a passenger on the steamer that day only because he could not get a stateroom.



About this time there was a United States Marine Hospital in Fairfield for the care of sick and disabled seamen. I found one bill for "61 days at 5¢ a day" for the care of a disabled seaman, dated March 31, 1843.

The Temperance Society too was becoming active about now. William Wheeler notes on Dec. 30, that 35 had joined—and the next Feb. 10 that 101 had joined. The Religious Revival continued too. There was a Camp Meeting at Stepney on the Railroad on Sept. 1, 1843.

There was a petition presented to build a bridge across Southport Harbor and the Town voted to urge the Legislators to grant this liberty. An Assessor was chosen for each parish—Jesse Alvord for Fairfield, Timothy Burr for Greenfield and Jessup Banks for Stratfield.

The Black Rock Turnpike Co. requested that it discontinue the company's road—a toll road, and the town decided not to oppose the move but two years later it was voted to add Black Rock Turnpike to the appropriate district in the Town's highways for future care. That had been a Toll Road run by a small private company with a Toll gate just north of Hemlock Road—near where the Reservoir is currently.

Jonathan Bulkley entered in his diary on Friday, Jan. 10, 1845 "Professor Twining and W. Farnham were along this day for the purpose of getting the terms of individuals through whose land the Railroad is contemplated".

P. T. Barnum was very active in town affairs at that time. On December 4, 1848 he was selected a Hayward and he held other posts from time to time. There are many stories about this great showman. Clyde Buckingham remembered one that his Grandfather, John Sherwood, told about Barnum. Mr. Barnum came over to Mill Hill seeking a cherry colored cat. Mr. Sherwood replied that there were no such animals as red cats. Whereupon Mr. Barnum promptly retorted "well there are black cherries".

On April 27, 1875 Frank Sherwood said "Went to Bridgeport with David Gould, Took a job moving buildings for P. T. Barnum".

I have included reports of other tales of this man who often sat on the fence or a front porch of the folk of Fairfield and passed the time of day.

And—

Taken from—The Bridgeport Standard  
June 5, 1849

Late from Barnum—The Philadelphia papers tell the following "good one" of Barnum:

The vicinity of the new museum was a source of much attraction during Monday as well as yesterday, and many a passerby had his attention arrested by the immense sign suspended across the street, painted in all imaginable sorts of colors and letters. There is an ordinance, we believe, against this species of signs occupying too much room, and this immense sheet of canvass had not long been displayed, before the enterprising manager was reported to the Mayor by 'Somebody,' as a violator of the city ordinances, and in due course of time was politely requested by one of the police to take down his colors, or if refusing he would be subjected to the usual penalty. Barnum knew well that his sign would create an excitement—it was exactly what it was made for—and willing to pay his way wherever he goes, he at once enquired how much the penalty was for each day. 'Two dollars,' replied the officer. 'Then,' said Barnum, 'I'll take a hundred dollars worth.' and running his hands into his pockets with the air of a man who had just concluded a highly advantageous bargain, he coolly walked away, while the police officer stood stupified and completely nonplussed. 'Well,' said he at length, all unconsciously speaking aloud as the manager disappeared, 'Well, that's Barnum, is it?—Cool man! He is some pumpkins! Why, he will be exhibiting ME next!'—and the nonplussed officer started for the Mayor's office at no very ordinary speed, while Barnum's banner floated in the breeze.

From the Annual Address delivered before the  
Fairfield County Agricultural Society  
at Bridgeport, Conn.  
Oct. 10, 1849

By P. T. Barnum, Esq.

President of the Society

. . . My practical experience in farming has been so limited that I can give you the whole benefit of it in very few words. And, unfortunately for myself, in relating this experience, I must do it in the style of a 'confession', the contemplation of which, I trust, my hearers will improve, not by following, but by avoiding my plan of conducting Agricultural pursuits. My whole experience, then, practically and personally, in the farming business, consists of two important facts only. In the fall of 1848, my head gardener reported that I had 80 bushels of potatoes to spare. I thereupon directed him to barrel them up and ship them to New York for sale. He did so, and received \$2.00 per barrel, or about 67 cents per bushel. But unfortunately, after the potatoes had been shipped, I found that my gardener had selected all of the "largest" for market, and left my family nothing but "small potatoes" to live on during the winter. But the worst is still to come. My potatoes were all gone before March, and I was obliged to buy during the Spring, over 80 bushels of potatoes at \$1.25 per bushel.

I trust that in as much as I missed a figure or two in this operation, my friends will profit by my ignorance, and never be in a hurry to sell their productions, until they have discovered that they have more on hand than will be required for family use.



My next experiment, which was in the Horticultural line, will not I fear, redound more to my credit than the potato operation. Last spring I observed my gardener cutting off from our young maple trees, all the small limbs and shoots which had started out from the body from two to six or eight feet from the ground. I inquired the object of this, and he informed me that these shoots were not only useless to the trees, but were, in fact, an injury, inasmuch as they absorbed the sap, which was needed in the upper branches. I immediately saw the philosophy of this, and feeling that, as—"President of the Fairfield County Agricultural Society", it was my duty to have some *practical* experience in farming matters, I soon proceeded to the house, and having selected a large and very sharp carving knife, went at once on to my grounds, with the full determination of destroying every worthless limb, sprout and "sucker" which came my way.

I soon found myself between a couple of rows of thrifty looking young cherry trees, but strange to say, their bodies were covered with "sprouts". Here was a sad neglect of my gardener, but I held in my hand a weapon capable of neutralizing the results of his forgetfulness, and at it I went, right and left. The carving knife, in my determined hand, worked wonders, and in less than an hour, I had trimmed every cherry tree nearly as high as I could reach, and looked with pleasure upon their symmetrical and much improved appearance. While thus beholding the fruit of my labor, and feeling a conscious pride over this, my first grand achievement in farming, my gardener came up, and with a feeling of satisfaction that I shall never forget, I pointed to the quantities of cherry sprouts which I had brought to the ground. The gardener started suddenly, gave a look of surprise, which instantly changed to despair, and clasping his hands, as if in deepest agony he exclaimed—"My God! you have cut off all the grafts!"

This was a sad blow to my farming aspirations! It has caused me, not exactly to abandon the business in despair, but rather to be cautious about using the pruning knife, until I know a sprout from a graft! I am convinced, from the foregoing experiments, that my education in the Agricultural line, was sadly neglected!

I hope, however, to improve rapidly under teachers like those who bring the results of their experience and labour to the annual Fairs of this county. Here is an opportunity for all to obtain knowledge. Here all farmers and mechanics meet in honourable and friendly competition, and the spirit of emulation engenders results highly beneficial to all who take an interest in these truly important branches of our national prosperity.

The town continued to hold its check on the Railroad. It was voted in 1848 to empower "the Selectmen to see if the New York, New Haven, Hartford Railroad left the highway in such condition as their chart requires". The same order was issued to the Selectmen the following year.

On Dec. 23, 1848 Mr. Jonathan Bulkley en-

tered in his diary: "Yesterday Mr. . . . and Mr. . . . as a Committee to call on the people on the track of the New Haven and New York Railroad for their subscription to the Capital Stock. They only received subscriptions to the amount of 110 shares in Southport . . .". Then on Dec. 27 " . . . a train of cars four in number passed toward N. Y. at 12 o'clock . . ." and on Dec. 29 " . . . the cars came in from New York about 12 o'clock in about 3 hours having been detained by the snow and other matters. They had four passenger cars and all full".

In 1849 the Railroad was completed and it would seem that Fairfield folk were immediately "going places". On Jan. 3, 1849 Mr. Bulkley recorded: " . . . went to New York today in the morning train—the New Haven & New York Railroad is underway & it is said that over 1000 passengers pass over it daily". Then on Jan. 6 " . . . people coming and going in the cars at all times. Mrs. . . . and . . . came up today in the afternoon cars". Again on July 24th " . . . pleasant. J. B. took the cars at 10 o'clock for Stamford. Dined with Richard Bulkley—took the cars at half past 3 (express train) for Bridgeport and returned to Southport at 5 P.M. All very well except the dust". August 11 " . . . the principal business is going and coming on the Railroad".

In 1850 the General Assembly was petitioned again to move the Court House to Bridgeport and Norwalk. Two years later the same issue came up again and it was opposed once more by the Town of Fairfield.

On Jan. 12, 1853 a meeting was held "to take action in relation to the County buildings". Also at this meeting it was decided to call a County meeting for the purpose of laying a county tax to rebuild the gaol. The County Commissioners were then "empowered to call a meeting or representatives to lay a tax to build a new gaol at Fairfield". They continued their opposition to the changing of the County seat to Bridgeport and finally employed Counsel to represent the Town about the Court House removal. That question had been before the General Assembly five times within the past 19 years. But notwithstanding all this, Bridgeport was successful that year—1853—in securing the County Seat. The Jail was moved at the same time.

Southport had been incorporated by the General Assembly in May 1831 and the charter was relinquished on Dec. 31, 1854 and it ceased to be a Borough. Jonathan Bulkley told of the



annual Borough meeting in 1845. Dec. 22, 1845  
 "The annual Borough Meeting was held in the Academy this evening. Capt. Jonathan Godfrey was chosen Warden. Jessup Alvord, M. A. Sherwood and four others were chosen Burgesses. A vote was also passed instructing the Warden and Court of Burgesses to lay out a road leading from W. N. B. Alvord through the land of Moses Bulkley, George Buckley, Austin Perry, Gurdon Perry, Widow Hubble down past Edwin Sherwood's, & Wm. Bulkley's to the shore. My own opinion is that the public interest does not call for it at this time and therefore it is not inexpedient".

In March 1855 "St. Paul's Episcopal Society was granted liberty to use ground lately occupied as a jail site for the purpose of erecting a church edifice thereon and to hold the same so long as they may use it for that purpose but whenever said Society shall cease to use it as a St. Paul's Society then and in that case the same shall revert back again to said town".

In 1857 the annual Town Meeting was changed from the first Monday in December to the first Monday in October and telegraph poles were erected although not to the satisfaction of the townspeople for they voted "that the present location of the telegraph poles along the principal streets is improper and unsightly and dangerous and that said poles ought to be erected along the line of the Railroad". The County Commissioners were then requested to have them changed.

Many of the vessels owned in Southport were fitted to carry passengers. The Ganges, the Merchant, the Fairfield and the Emily were a few. The Fairfield was said to be handsomely finished in mahogany. The Emily was the last passenger

boat and among her last passengers to New York were Alva D. Wood, Capt. William Bulkley, Andrew Bulkley the tailor, and Samuel Pike. Her last passengers from New York to Southport were in prophetic vindication of the 19th Amendment in 1856—Louise Toby and Abby Furness. The railroad had made transportation more convenient.

That year also brought the change in the general management of the schools. There were to be 6 school visitors and they were:

Dr. I. T. Dennison	}	School visitors for 3 years
Rev. I. S. Purdy		
Rev. William I. Jennings	}	School visitors for 2 years
Rev. T. B. Sturges		
Rev. C. S. Leffingwell	}	School visitors for 1 year
Sherwood Sterling		

It was also voted that "Frances D. Perry be the agent to sell burial lots in the West Burial Ground. George Ogden to be Superintendent of the West Burial Ground. Charles Bennett be superintendent of the Old and East Burial Ground for the purpose of keeping the ground clear from weeds and to keep the fences in order. Samuel A. Nichols to be agent to sell and give deed of the burial lots in the East Burial Ground. Jessup Banks be agent to take care of the old Stratfield Burial Ground. Samuel Betts be the agent to take care of the Greenfield Burial Ground. That the Committee appointed by the School Society for the purpose of enlarging the West Burial Ground be continued . . . .".

"The grounds to be mowed three times during the summer—about the middle of June, July and August".

Thus closed the first sixty years of the nineteenth century.



## CHAPTER 8

### 1860-1900

Fairfield like the other towns in Connecticut had been too busy with trade and strengthening her own community interests to hear the rumblings or warnings which led to the Civil War. Even though John Brown, a farmer and preacher, had been a native of Connecticut—from Torrington and over the years Fairfield had had her share of slaves, there was little thought of trouble. There were no militia companies that could be alerted promptly as there had been for the Revolutionary War or the War of 1812. The state at that time showed 50,000 able bodied men on the militia rolls, however, no trainbands drilled regularly on the Place of Parade in the several parishes. An air of serenity and industry had enveloped these folk. When the call came to Fairfield for enlistments in the summer of 1862 there was much work to be done. Some 300,000 men were needed because of reverses and Connecticut's quota was 7,145. Connecticut's Governor William A. Buckingham had said to the people of his state "Close your factories and workshops, turn aside from your farms and businesses, leave for awhile your families and your homes, and meet face to face the enemy of your liberties".

Fairfield set about doing just that. At a Town Meeting held on July 19, 1862 the following vote was taken:

Resolved—that the Town of Fairfield authorize the Selectmen to pay to each man who shall enlist in the Town in the United States Service before the 20th day of August next the sum of twenty-five dollars of that they shall provide a fund not exceeding fifteen hundred dollars from which to pay their quota of any necessary expense attendant upon recruiting in this Town and County. It was further voted—That the selectmen be authorized to borrow such amounts as may be necessary to provide for the above resolution.

Both of these votes were rescinded at the next meeting on August 5th and the new votes passed at that meeting were:

Resolved—that the Town of Fairfield will give a bounty of one hundred twenty-five dollars to each

man who has already enlisted or who shall enlist in the company now recruiting in this Town called Fairfield's Rough and Ready Guard when examined and mustered into Service of the United States. Provided such enlistment shall be had before draft shall be made on this town for her quota of men under the call for three hundred thousand more volunteers for War. Be it further Resolved—that the Town of Fairfield will appropriate to the expenses of recruiting in said Company a fund not to exceed one thousand dollars, said expenses incurred and to be incurred, to be determined by the discretion of one or more of the Selectmen of the Town; and Resolved—that the Selectmen are hereby authorized to borrow on account of the Town any sum or sums of money necessary to carry out the above resolutions.

Additional inducements were offered just ten days later at a meeting legally called.

#### Warning

Notice is hereby given to the inhabitants of the Town of Fairfield that there will be a meeting of the voters in said Town at the Town house on Friday, August 15th at 3 o'clock P.M. for the purpose of extending the war bounty to all the residents of the Town who may enlist in any Company in said Town or elsewhere.

Fairfield August 11, 1862

W. O. Murwin }  
A. D. Wood } Selectmen

the above is a true copy  
of the original notice.

Attest: Samuel A. Nichols  
Town Clerk

Agreeable to the foregoing notice a Town Meeting of the Voters of the Town of Fairfield was held at the Town House in Fairfield at 3 o'clock P.M. on the 15th day of August 1862. John Gould Esq. was chosen Moderator of the meeting. On motion the following Resolutions were passed by said meeting. Resolved that the War bounty of this Town of one hundred twenty-five dollars shall be extended to any resident of this town who has or shall enlist under the two last calls of the President in any company in this state whether in or out of the Town of Fairfield provided that this town shall be credited with such enlistment on its quota in case of a draft and provided further if any such recruit shall receive the bounty of any other town the difference only shall be made up to him by this town.

Resolved —

That the Bounty voted by this Town shall after



the 20th inst. so far as Citizens of other Towns are concerned unless such other Towns shall refund the bounty paid by their respective towns.

Resolved —

That the Selectmen of the Town be instructed to confer with the Selectmen of the Town of Bridgeport or any other Town in this State and arrange the matter of bounty paid or that may be paid by either Town to residents of their respective Towns.

On Motion it was Voted —

That the Selectmen of the Town of Fairfield cause to be published in pamphlet form all certificates of exemption from military duty five hundred numbers 20 days to be sold.

The above and foregoing  
was truly taken and Recorded

by Samuel A. Nichols

Town Clerk.

and at another meeting just a month later.

Warning —

A meeting of the legal Voters of the Town of Fairfield will be held at the Town House in said Town on Monday the 15th Inst. at 2 o'clock in the afternoon for the purpose of considering the expediency of offering bounties to the drafted men and volunteers for the nine months service. Fairfield Sept. 11, 1862.

The foregoing is a true copy  
of the original warning.

Attest: Samuel A. Nichols

Town Clerk.

W. O. Murwin }  
A. D. Wood } Selectmen

At a Town Meeting held at Fairfield on the 15th day of September 1862 by virtue of the foregoing notice R. C. Wetmore chosen Moderator of said Meeting on motion the following Resolution was passed Viz:

Resolved that this Town hereby authorize the Selectmen of this Town to pay to each man who has heretofore, or shall hereafter be drafted and be accepted and sworn into the service of the United States by person or substitute for the purpose of procuring a Volunteer the sum of \$200; and all who shall hereafter volunteer this present war and be credited to the quota of this Town the sum of \$300.

The foregoing is truly taken and  
Recorded by Samuel A. Nichols, Registrar

The Townspeople were extremely anxious to do their part. Feelings were running high and it is a fact that these patriotic people were not ready to accept criticism from any source and thus set about to correct a mis-statement against their endeavors. On the 20th of October the records show:

At a Town Meeting legally warned and held on the 20th day of October 1862 at the Town House in Fairfield in accordance with the notice thereof, John Gould Esq. was appointed Moderator of the meeting. After the reading of an article in a newspaper printed in New Haven it was Voted that a Committee be appointed to refute the stand therein made

against the Town of Fairfield, and that O. H. Perry, Benjamin Pomeroy, Sherwood Sterling and Edward I. Alvord be the Committee for that purpose.

Voted that the said Committee be instructed to inquire into any alleged in the matter of drafting in the town of Fairfield and report to a subsequent town meeting.

Resolved —

That a Bounty of two hundred dollars be paid by this Town to every man who shall volunteer to fill up the quota under the last order of the adjutant General of the State, when accepted and sworn into the service of the United States. Passed in the affirmative.

Resolved —

That the Selectmen are hereby authorized and directed to incur and pay such expenses as they shall seem proper in order to secure the number of Volunteers required. Passed in the affirmative.

Resolved —

That the Selectmen are hereby authorized and directed as agents of the Town to borrow any Sum or Sums of money that may be needed to pay the bounty offered by the town and the expenses incurred by them; authorized at this meeting. Passed in the affirmative.

Resolved —

That when this meeting adjourn it adjourn to Tuesday next at 1 o'clock p.m. and thence to Monday next at the same hour unless otherwise ordered. Passed in the affirmative.

Voted —

That this meeting be adjourned to Thursday next at 1 o'clock afternoon.

The above and foregoing  
was truly taken and  
recorded by Samuel A. Nichols  
Registrar.

These initial efforts were apparently not as fruitful as had been hoped and the adjourned meeting was held on the 23rd of October where the bounty for enlistment was increased. It had been difficult to arouse people fast enough.

At a Town Meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town of Fairfield held by adjournment this 23rd day of October, 1862 the former Moderator not being present Robert C. Wetmore was appointed Moderator pro tem. Whereupon the following Resolution was proposed and carried unanimously, viz—  
Resolved —

That the bounty already offered by the Town be increased to two hundred and seventy-five dollars.  
Voted —

That this meeting be adjourned to Monday at 1 o'clock p.m.

The above was truly taken  
and recorded by  
Samuel A. Nichols,  
Registrar.

Those like their forebears were people of determination, and as one sees the meeting adjourned until the following Monday when note could be taken of their progress in recruiting.



However not only did they have this major problem of filling their quota of recruits at the next meeting but also the Town Hall was burned on the morning of October 26, 1862 and this added to their worries.

At a Town Meeting of the inhabitants of the Town of Fairfield held by adjournment at the Town House on the 27th day of October 1862 Robert C. Wetmore acting as Moderator it was Resolved:

That the Selectmen be directed to offer a reward of Five hundred dollars for the detection and conviction of the person or persons who on the morning of October 26, 1862 set fire to the Town House and to the Buildings of Charles Bennett and John Gould or either of them, and that the Selectmen upon the conviction of the incendiary be authorized to borrow the money if necessary. Passed without dissent. Resolved —

That the Selectmen be authorized to appoint an agent to inform the Governour of this State of the progress this town is making in filling its quota of Volunteers and make such explanations as may be required. Voted in the affirmative.

The above was truly taken and  
Recorded by Samuel A. Nichols,  
Registrar (Town Clerk)

With this constant drive for the needed recruits, the families of the soldiers had to be considered and accountings of their welfare were acted upon from time to time —

Dec. 1, 1862 —

Voted that the Selectmen, Edward I. Alvord Esquire attend to the taking of depositions agreeable to the notice served on the Town of Fairfield by certain persons claiming Bounties from the town as having entered into the United States Service for the Town of Fairfield said depositions to be taken on Long Island on the 2nd day of Instant Dec. 1862.

Resolved that the Selectmen of the town of Fairfield be and they are hereby authorized to pay the sum of ten dollars per month for nine months to the Family of Eugene Slason commencing from the date he was drafted the said Eugene Slasons family being destitute and the Selectmen not having the power by law to give them any assistance.

The above and foregoing was truly  
taken and recorded by  
Samuel A. Nichols,  
Town Clerk.

The State Legislature had voted initially \$30.00 monthly for each enlisted man, \$6.00 for his wife and \$2.00 for each child. The Federal Government had offered a bounty of \$100.00 for enlistment and the State \$96.00 at the outset of this recruitment. As the Towns upgraded their bounties from time to time the Federal and State Governments did the same.

It is interesting to note that while Connecticut's

first quota was 7,145, 8,036 men answered the call in a period of just 45 days.

Wars are costly. There were not only quotas of man power but there were financial commitments for the Townspeople as well. Plans for this part of the obligations follows:

Agreeable to the above notice a town meeting of the Inhabitants of the town of Fairfield was held on the 16th day of February, 1863 John Gould Esq was appointed Moderator, on motion it was voted that the auditors Report be accepted. Voted that this meeting agreeable to an act of the Legislation of this State approve December 18th 1862 authorizing town to issue Bonds for paying their indebtedness contracted for War purposes, Resolved as follows; to wit That this Town authorize and so hereby authorize the issuing of Bonds to the amount of Thirty-five thousand dollars or so much thereof as may be necessary to pay the indebtedness of said Town contracted for war purposes; that said Bonds be of the denominations of 100. Five hundred dollars payable to bearer or order at the option of the buyer with interest semi-annually at the Town Treasurer's office in said Fairfield on the first day of January and July in each year that Bonds shall be dated on the first day of July 1863 and shall be made payable in sums and at dates as follows to wit

3 Bonds of \$500	\$1900 payable July 1st, 1864
4 Bonds of 100	
3 Bonds of 500	2000 payable July 1st, 1865
5 Bonds of 100	
3 Bonds of 500	2100 payable July 1st, 1866
6 Bonds of 100	
3 Bonds of 500	2300 payable July 1st, 1867
8 Bonds of 100	
4 Bonds of 500	2400 payable July 1st, 1868
4 Bonds of 100	
4 Bonds of 500	2500 payable July 1st, 1869
5 Bonds of 100	
4 Bonds of 500	2700 payable July 1st, 1870
7 Bonds of 100	
4 Bonds of 500	2900 payable July 1st, 1871
9 Bonds of 100	
5 Bonds of 500	3100 payable July 1st, 1872
6 Bonds of 100	
5 Bonds of 500	3200 payable July 1st, 1873
7 Bonds of 100	
5 Bonds of 500	3400 payable July 1st, 1874
9 Bonds of 100	
6 Bonds of 500	3600 payable July 1st, 1875
6 Bonds of 100	
5 Bonds of 500	2900 payable July 1st, 1876
4 Bonds of 100	

making eighty Bonds of \$100 and 54 of \$500 each which shall bear interest at the rate of six per cent per Annum with coupons attached for the same.

Voted that the Selectmen for the time being be and are hereby appointed and authorized as agents for the town, for the procuring of said Bonds, and for selling and issuing the same as may seem for the best interest of the town, but not to sell them for less than par value; and to apply the proceeds of such Sales to the payment of the Town indebtedness



contracted for war purposes—to keep an account of the number sold and amount sold. Also the names of the purchasers and to render an account to the Town annually or whenever required and that either one or more of the Selectmen may sign said bonds and as agents for the town—shall be signed by the Town Clerk and Registered.

Voted that said bonds be advertised in Hartford, New Haven, New York and Bridgeport two weeks before the sale. Voted that four thousand dollars be appropriated from the Town treasury yearly for the payment of the interest and principal of the Bonds issued by the town for War purposes July 1st 1863.

Voted that the resolution paper by the town of the 16th day of February 1863 for the issuing of War bonds be so amended as to authorize the issuing of ten additional bonds of \$500 each instead of and in place of fifty bonds of \$100 each when said issue Bonds will of read as follows to wit:

3 of \$500;	4 of \$100—	\$1900 payable July 1, 1864
4 of 500;	0 of 100—	2000 payable July 1, 1865
4 of 500;	1 of 100—	2100 payable July 1, 1866
4 of 500;	3 of 100—	2300 payable July 1, 1867
4 of 500;	4 of 100—	2400 payable July 1, 1868
5 of 500;	0 of 100—	2500 payable July 1, 1869
5 of 500;	2 of 100—	2700 payable July 1, 1870
5 of 500;	4 of 100—	2900 payable July 1, 1871
6 of 500;	1 of 100—	3100 payable July 1, 1872
6 of 500;	2 of 100—	3200 payable July 1, 1873
6 of 500;	4 of 100—	3400 payable July 1, 1874
7 of 500;	1 of 100—	3600 payable July 1, 1875
5 of 500;	4 of 100—	2900 payable July 1, 1876

64	30	\$35000
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Voted —

That either one of the Selectmen be sufficient to Sign the coupons to said bonds.

Voted —

That so much of the resolution as paper at the special town meeting held on the 16th of February 1863 making it the duty of the Town Clerk to sign the coupons to said bonds and to Register the same, be and the same is hereby Repealed.

E. Robert  
Clerk Pro Tem

The above and foregoing  
was truly taken and Recorded by  
Edmund Hobart, Town Clerk pro Tempore.

Those who remained at home were still uppermost in the minds of the citizens and votes were taken to allay their needs.

At a Town meeting held on the 4th day of August 1863 agreeable to the above notice John Gould Esq. was appointed Moderator of said meeting.

On Motion the following preamble and Resolutions were adopted, viz: Whereas it has been thought expedient by the Inhabitants of the town of Fairfield to take action and provide Measures of relief for such of our citizens as may be Drafted in accordance with the Act Entitled "An act for enrolling and calling out the National forces and for other purposes", as well as to encourage those who in uniformity to that but shall join the service of

the United States.

Be it therefore

Resolved that we do hereby appropriate twenty thousand dollars to be expended if necessary by our Selectmen who are hereby duly appointed a Committee to carry out the doings of this Meeting and with full discretionary powers in all cases that may arise in relation thereto.

Resolved that the Selectmen of the Town of Fairfield be hereby authorized and instructed to borrow for and on behalf of said Town the sum of twenty thousand dollars or so much as may be necessary on Bonds notes or Town orders which they are hereby duly authorized to issue on behalf of said town bearing interest at the legal rate and not to be issued at less than their par value.

Resolved that the committee shall inquire into the circumstances of each person drafted and who shall not be exempted under any of the provisions of said Law and who shall be liable to respond to the DRAFT IN one of the three ways provided by Law, and for the relief of such person or his family the Committee are hereby empowered and instructed to use the sum of three hundred dollars, to wit, In case such person shall elect to enter and shall go into the service of the United States the sum aforesaid shall be paid to such person or his Family for his or their relief, and in case such person shall not so elect then the said sum may be used to procure a substitute, and in case such person do not go into such Service and in which no substitute has been procured as aforesaid then their sum may be paid to the proper officer of the United States of such Service or Substitute agreeably to said Conscription Act.

Resolved that the monies to be expended in carrying out the provisions and intentions of this meeting shall be repaid in five equal and annual instalments by a general tax on the real and personal Estate of this County,

The above and foregoing  
is truly taken and recorded  
By Samuel A. Nichols,  
Town Clerk.

They took their concern to Hartford.

At a town meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town of Fairfield on the 14th day of August 1863 held agreeable to the above notice John Gould was appointed Moderator and the following Resolutions were passed, viz:

Resolved that the resolution passed at the last town meeting for the purpose of affording Relief to persons that may be drafted as well as to encourage those who may join the Service of the United States, we hereby reaffirm and readopt at this Meeting,  
Resolved —

That it shall be discretionary with the Selectmen to borrow the money or to pay to each person drafted liable, a town order similar to that used by other towns or any other course they may think proper in effecting the object.

Resolved —

That the Senator of this district and the Representatives of this Town be and are hereby requested to secure the early passage at the next session of the



Legislation an act legalizing and confirming the action of this meeting.

The above was truly taken  
and Recorded by Samuel A. Nichols,  
Registrar.

And once again they reaffirmed their determination —

A Special Town Meeting was held in accordance with the above motion on the 7th day of September 1863 at the Town house in Fairfield. Jonathan Godfrey Esq. was appointed Moderator of said Meeting. The following was passed, viz:

Resolved, That we hereby rectify and reaffirm the doings of the two former Meetings wherein appropriations were made and instructions were given to our Selectmen relative to encouraging enlistments as well as affording relief to those persons Drafted from this town.

The above was truly  
taken and Recorded by  
Samuel A. Nichols,  
Town Clerk.

There was an interesting editorial in the Bridgeport Farmer of January 8, 1864 telling about the soldier's Christmas Day of 1863 and also some news of the quotas which I feel bears repeating in part right here. A large group from Fairfield were with the 17th. (A reunion of this group held in Fairfield in 1883 is reported later).

The Farmer. Friday, January 8, 1864.  
Bridgeport, Connecticut

#### THE 17th REGIMENT ON CHRISTMAS DAY

By a letter received in this city from Corporal S. R. Wilcox, of Co. F, of this regiment, dated the 26th, we learn that the glad Christmas time was a day of good cheer and merriment to the soldier boys on Folly Island. It was a holiday for the whole brigade, which was exempt from drill, and all duty save what was absolutely necessary. The men set to work with a will, and on Christmas morn, the whole camp was embowered and shrouded with the leafy decorations appropriate to the day. Of course our informant is particularly warm in his commendation of the handiwork of Company F, which must have indeed been beautiful to eyes accustomed to the routine and dreariness of tent life amidst the sands of the islands in Charleston bay.

The bill of fare for the dinner of Co. F included boiled ham, codfish balls, mashed potatoes, onions, pickles, bread and butter, pies, apple dumplings, nuts, raisins, and fruits with good coffee, and cigars to put the finishing touch to the dinner. The excellence of the feast was due to the efforts of their captain. The amusements of the day included foot races, climbing a greased pole, sack and wheelbarrow races blindfolded, with some bare-back riding at full speed, at a suspended ring to be carried off on the sword's point.

As a general thing the regiment is very healthy —the weather, however, was raw and windy, and

quite cold for a few days previous, etc. etc.

The Farmer. Friday, January 8, 1864.

#### QUOTAS FILLED

The quota of Monroe was filled last week, by "American Citizens of African descent". The number demanded of Monroe was 13, The 16 required of Trumbull were raised by Monday—all white men, and a portion of them citizens of the town.

Fairfield has also filled its quota of 43, from different sections, of all conditions and colors. Norwalk has raised the number required—109.

Bridgewater, that staunch old town accused of copperheadism, has also secured the 13 men assigned to it under the last call for 300,000 men, and besides has the exclusive honor of being the only town in this district from which there are no deserters under the last draft.

What the expense of raising these quotas has been to the various towns the tax-payers will find out in due season, and still the end is not yet.

The stories of deserters and substitutes are familiar ones to students of this War. In total there were some 4,000 substitutes (for which each principal had received a bounty) but we can say proudly few of these were Connecticut men. Our predecessors did want to help.

The mounting expenses of the Town in this period loomed ever larger and still additional people were being sought. Fairfield pressed on to do her part.

A Town Meeting of the Inhabitants of the town of Fairfield was held on the 24th day of November 1863 in accordance with the above notice Jeremiah T. Denison was chosen Moderator of said meeting the Town Clerk not being present Moses G. Betts was appointed Clerk Pro tem. On Motion the following Resolution was passed. Voted that whereas the President of the United States has issued his Proclamation calling for three hundred thousand Volunteers to be raised before the 5th day of January next and has given assurance that if said Volunteer shall be raised before said 5th day of January the draft otherwise to be enforced at that time shall not take place and whereas the Governor of the State of Connecticut has issued his Proclamation urging immediate action on the part of the people of this State to the end that the quota of this State may be revised by Volunteering within the time above named and whereas the quota of the Town of Fairfield is *forty-three men*.

Therefore Resolved that Alve D. Wood and Samuel Pike be and they are hereby appointed Agents of the Town of Fairfield with full powers to recruit and procure the quota of said town and that said Agents be and they are hereby authorized and empowered to borrow on the credit of the town such sums of money as may be necessary to defray the expenses of recruiting and procuring said quota, said Agents to use their best discretion in making said expenses as small as possible consistently with accomplishing the object in view.

The above was truly taken and recorded



by Moses G. Betts,  
Clerk, Pro. Tem.

The Agents of the Town were given increasing powers and the people stood behind them.

Notice is hereby given that a special meeting of the legal voters of the Town of Fairfield will be held at the Town House in said Town on Monday the 18th day of January inst, 1864 at 1 o'clock in the afternoon for the purpose of confirming if they shall see fit and thereby giving legality to the act of a previous Town Meeting which authorized the payment of certain bounties for the relief of drafted men.

Also to consider the expediency, (if the aforesaid Act of the Town be confirmed) of finding the debt contemplated by said act by extending the series of bonds already issued by the Town to an amount sufficient to embrace this together with such other additional debt in whole or in part as may have recently been incurred in procuring volunteers to fill the quota of the Town

And also if thought best to provide for refunding the several amounts paid to substitutes by certain persons who were drafted under the first draft in this Town concerning which the Selectmen were, at the last annual meeting instructed to make inquiry and report

And to do any other necessary business.

Fairfield, Conn.  
Jan. 11th 1864

Levi Wordin	}	Selectmen
Franklin Smith		
John A. Alvord		

The aforesaid warning is a true  
copy of the original  
Moses G. Betts,  
Clerk Pro Tem.

At a special Town Meeting warned and held agreeable to the above voters on the 18th day January 1864 John Gould was chosen Moderator and Moses G. Betts was chosen Clerk Pro tem. The clerk being absent the following two votes were introduced by Simon Sherwood and passed:

Voted that this meeting ratify and confirm the former action of this Town at meetings held on the 4th and 14th days of August 1863 for appropriating money to said drafted men or their families under the late conscription act.

Voted That the Town orders issued by the Selectmen in accordance with votes passed at said meetings for and in behalf of the Town of Fairfield for said purposed being forty-five in number of \$300 each and amounting to thirteen thousand five hundred dollars be and the same are hereby accepted by the Town and confirmed as good and valid by this meeting.

Voted That the following named persons with the amounts annexed to their respective names be paid by the Selectmen for sums rendered and amounts paid by the within named parties for substitutes under the draft of 1862.

G. H. Bradley .....	\$400.00
W. B. Ogden .....	500.00
R. B. Jennings .....	300.00
F. E. Burr .....	250.00
Wm. Burr .....	200.00
David Sherwood .....	300.00
Benjamin R. Dimon .....	300.00
Eugene Slauson .....	300.00
	<hr/>
	\$2550.00

The following report of the agents appointed by this Town to procure Volunteers in order to avoid a draft was voted upon and passed.

Dr.—Town of Fairfield in A/C with Alba D. Wood & Sam. Pike, Agents—Cr.

1863

Dec. 9 to paid Randolph & Co.—3 men @ \$175....	\$ 525.00
Dec. 12 to paid J. Williams—3 men @ \$175 .....	525.00
Dec. 13 to paid J. Kershaw—6 men @ \$175 .....	1050.00
Dec. 14 to paid J. M. Benton....3 men @ \$150.....	450.00
Dec. 15 to paid J. Williams—5 men @ \$175 .....	875.00
Dec. 15 to paid W. Pixley—1 man @ \$150 .....	150.00
Dec. 15 to paid L. W. Sherwood—1 man @ \$150 ..	150.00
Dec. 15 to paid J. Williams—2 men @ \$175 .....	350.00
Dec. 16 to paid J. Peck & Co.—7 men @ \$160 .....	1120.00
Dec. 16 to paid J. W. Bouton—5 men @ \$160 .....	800.00
Dec. 17 to paid J. Williams—1 man @ \$175 .....	175.00
Dec. 17 to paid J. W. Daskam—2 men @ \$175 ....	350.00
Dec. 18 to paid J. W. Bouton—1 man @ \$175 .....	175.00
Dec. 18 to paid Wm. Pinkerman—2 men @ \$100....	200.00
Dec. 20 to paid J. B. Asherton—2 men @ \$150 ....	300.00
Dec. 20 to paid J. Gilbert—1 man @ \$175 .....	175.00

45 men

Dec. 3 to paid discount on Bank Note .....	39.18
Dec. 3 to paid Sam'l Pike Expenses .....	82.69
Dec. 3 to paid A. D. Wood .....	40.19

\$7182.06

36 days' time Wood & Pike @ \$5 .....	180.00
---------------------------------------	--------

\$7362.06

Average cost of the men without Expenses—\$157.25

Voted—That the Selectmen be and are hereby authorized and directed to issue bonds on the credit of and for account of the Town of Fairfield to the amount of Twenty-one thousand dollars on such parts thereof as may be necessary for the purpose of paying the indebtedness of the Town contracted for War purposes, said bonds to be signed by one or more of the Selectmen as Agents or Agent and dated the 1st day of July 1864 and of the denominations of Five Hundred dollars each with interest coupons attached payable semi-annually at the Town Treasurer office on the 1st days of January and July in each year at the rate of six percent per annum that said bonds when due shall be paid at the Town treasurer's office in Fairfield at such times and in such sums as follows to wit:

6 Bonds of \$500 each payable July 1st 1877
6 Bonds of 500 each payable July 1st 1878
6 Bonds of 500 each payable July 1st 1879
6 Bonds of 500 each payable July 1st 1880
6 Bonds of 500 each payable July 1st 1881
6 Bonds of 500 each payable July 1st 1882
6 Bonds of 500 each payable July 1st 1883

42 Bonds of \$500—\$21,000

Voted—That the said bonds be advertised by notices in the Bridgeport papers for three weeks for proposals and awarded and sold by the Selectmen to



the highest responsible bidder, but not to be sold for less than par value and the proceeds applied to the payment of the present unpaid debt of the Town contracted for War purposes.

The following was voted upon and passed:  
Presented at the office of the Provost Marshal 15 Recruits who were duly accepted and credited to the town of Fairfield and for which service I have received as fees as follows:

15 State Orders of \$10 each .....	\$150.00
6 United States orders of \$15 each	90.00
	<hr/>
	\$240.00
Less for time and necessary expenses	
6½ days @ \$3 per day .....	19.50
	<hr/>
	\$220.50

This sum is in my hands subject to the order of the Town of Fairfield Jan. 18, 1864.

John A. Alvord, U. S. Recruiter, Agt.  
The above and foregoing was truly taken  
and recorded by Moses G. Betts,  
Clerk, Pro. Tem.

As one reads these minutes one feels the great pressure for getting on the "band wagon" and doing one's duty. The need was evident —

Warning is hereby given that a special meeting of the legal voters of the town of Fairfield will be held at the Town House in said town, on Wednesday the 10th day of Feb. inst (1864) at two o'clock in the afternoon, for the purpose, if they shall deem it expedient, of taking action in relation to procuring such a number of Volunteers as, will in addition to those already applied, be sufficient to fill the quota of said town under the late call of the President of the United States Dated Feb. 1st 1864 for 500,000 men: And to authorize if they shall see fit, such a sum of money to be borrowed on the credit of the town as may be required to meet such necessary expenses as may be incurred in procuring Volunteers to fill the quota of said town: And to do any other necessary business.

Fairfield, Ct., Feb. 5th 1864  
Levi Wordin }  
Franklin Smith } Selectmen  
John A. Alvord }

The foregoing warning is a true copy of the original  
Attest: M. G. Betts, Town Clerk.

At a special Town Meeting held Feb. 10, 1864  
John Gould, Moderator

Voted—That Samuel Pike, William Pinkerman and the Selectmen be appointed Agents of the Town to procure Volunteers to fill the Quota of the Town

Voted—That the Selectmen be and they hereby are authorized to borrow on the credit of the Town such sum or sums of money as may be required to procure the number of men required to fill the Quota of the Town under the recent call for 500,000 men.  
The above is a true copy  
of the original  
Moses G. Betts, Clerk.

Warning is hereby given that a special meeting of the legal voters of the town of Fairfield will be held

at the Town House in said town on Wednesday the 27th day of July inst. (1864) at 2 o'clock in the afternoon for the purpose of appointing if they shall see fit some proper person or persons as recruiting Agents to procure men to fill the quota of the town under the late call of the President of the United States for 500,000 men and to authorize said Agents to borrow money on the credit of the town or otherwise to provide for paying the necessary expenses that may be incurred by said Agents in procuring men to fill the quota as aforesaid and to do any other necessary business.

Fairfield, July 22, 1864  
Levi Wordin }  
Franklin Smith } Selectmen  
John A. Alvord }

Agreeable to the above notice a special Town Meeting was held at the Town House July 27, 1864.

L. W. Clark, appointed moderator.

Resolved—That the Selectmen of the Town of Fairfield be appointed Agents, to procure men to fill any Quota of this town which may be due under the late call of the President of the United States for 500,000 men to serve in the Army of the United States and that they be empowered by this resolution to appoint or procure such person or persons as in their judgment will act best for the interests of this town to assist them in the procurement of men to fill its quota.

Resolved—That an additional tax of two mills on the dollar be imposed on the last completed assessment list of this town for the purpose of paying any additional expenses and any arrears that may accrue during the current fiscal year; and that said additional tax be payable within ten days and collected with the tax assessed at the last annual town meeting.

Resolved—And any person liable to draft who shall procure a substitute who shall count on the quota of this town and be accepted and mustered into the Service of the United States, shall be entitled to one hundred and twenty-five dollars to be paid them by the Agents appointed by this resolution.

Resolved—That the previous resolution be amended so as to read two hundred dollars in place of one hundred and twenty-five.

Resolved—To authorize the Selectmen to borrow money to carry into effect the resolution already passed.

Voted to adjourn.  
The above and foregoing was truly taken and recorded by  
Moses G. Betts, Town Clerk.

Warning is therefore hereby given that a special meeting of the legal voters of the town of Fairfield will be held at the Town House in said town on Tuesday the 9th day of August inst. (1864) at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, for the purpose of adopting (if they shall see fit) such other or additional measures as may be needed to fill the quota of the town—of appointing Agents for this purpose—of authorizing a tax to be laid—Bonds to be issued, or in some other way to provide for the expense that may be incurred in filling the quota of said town.



Also if they shall think it expedient to increase the sum now authorized to be paid to individuals furnishing substitutes previous to the draft, to three hundred dollars with such conditions as they may think proper to attach—And to do any other necessary business.

Fairfield August 4th 1864

Levi Wordin	}	Selectmen
Franklin Smith		
John A. Alvord		

The above is a true copy  
of the original warning  
Moses G. Betts, Town Clerk.

At a special Town Meeting held agreeable to the foregoing notice on the 9th day of August 1864 John Gould Moderator the following resolutions were passed.

Resolved—That the sum of two hundred dollars authorized to be paid to persons procuring substitutes at the last Town Meeting be hereby extended to three hundred dollars and that the Selectmen be authorized to issue a town order to any enrolled person of the town who shall procure a substitute under the late law who shall count on the quota of the town, for the same sum that it shall then cost the town, in the opinion of the Selectmen to procure a volunteer, not exceeding the said sum of three hundred dollars.

Resolved—That if the above sum be found insufficient by the Selectmen for securing the full quota of the Town when they are hereby authorized to take such other measures as they may deem expedient and at their discretion to pay any sum or sums of money necessary to secure said quota and incurring any expense by themselves or agents for such purposes.

Resolved—That to carry out the foregoing resolutions the Selectmen are hereby authorized to borrow any sum or sums of money necessary, and to pledge the faith of the Town for the repayment of the same.

If it shall be deemed expedient by them to raise the whole or a part of the money by the issue of town bonds, they are hereby authorized to issue such bonds in continuation or otherwise of the existing series and to an amount not to exceed the sum of fifteen thousand dollars and may negotiate them privately or by public advertisement at any price not less than par.

Voted to adjourn.

The above is a true copy  
of doing at this meeting.  
Moses G. Betts, Town Clerk.

While the soldiers were away their home ties were in danger of being weakened. Thus a proposal was made to allow them to vote while in active duty—a form of absentee voting. This was taken up at a meeting on August 15, 1864.

#### *Town Meeting*

Notice is hereby given to the Voters of the Town of Fairfield that a special town meeting will be held at the Town House on Monday the 15th day of August 1864 at 9 o'clock A.M. for the purpose of

voting upon the proposed amendment to the constitution allowing the rights of suffrage to Soldiers in the field.

Fairfield August 8th 1864

F. A. Bartram, Constable

The above is a true copy  
of the original warning.  
Moses G. Betts, Town Clerk.

August 15, 1864 Meeting opened at 9 o'clock A.M. T. A. Bartram, Moderator.

Number of votes in favor of Soldiers in the Army  
Voting—(Yeas) 180

Number of votes against soldiers in the army  
Voting—(Noes) 145.

The above is a true record.  
Moses G. Betts, Town Clerk.

It was rather a close vote as votes go but Fairfield supported the stand of allowing those in the "Field" to vote.

Still the call went out — more men, more funds.

#### *Town Meeting*

Warning is hereby given that a special meeting of the legal voters of the Town of Fairfield will be held at the Town House in said Town on Wednesday the 23rd day of November 1864 at 2 o'clock in the afternoon for the purpose (if they shall deem it expedient) of authorizing the Selectmen of said Town to enlist men for the service of the United States—Such enlisted men to be credited to the Town of Fairfield and applied on the quota that shall be assigned to said Town on any future call that may be made by the President of the United States—And of authorizing (if they shall see fit) the payment by the Town, of such a sum as they think proper to each enrolled person of the Town who shall procure a substitute who shall be duly credited to the Town—And of authorizing the Selectmen to borrow such a sum of money on the credit of the Town as may be necessary to meet the expenses arising from the enlisting of men and procurement of substitutes as aforesaid or in some other way to provide for same and of doing any other necessary business.

Fairfield Nov. 17, 1864

Levi Wordin	}	Selectmen
Franklin Smith		
John A. Alvord		

A true copy of the  
original warning by  
M. G. Betts, Town Clerk.

and again on November 23, 1864

At a special Town meeting legally held on the 23rd Nov. 1864 Captn Joseph Bartram, Moderator.

Resolved—That the Selectmen be hereby appointed Agents to enlist men for the service of the United States. Such men to be credited to the Town of Fairfield and applied on the quota that shall be assigned to said Town under any future call by the President of the United States.

Resolved—That said Agents be hereby authorized to pay to any enrolled person of the Town of Fairfield who shall procure a substitute who shall be



mustered into the U. S. service and duly credited to said Town an amount equal to that which it may cost (at the time said substitute is furnished) to procure a volunteer; such payment may be made by issue of Town Orders or in money in the discretion of the Selectmen.

Resolved—That the Selectmen be hereby authorized to borrow such sum or sums of money on the credit of the Town as may be required to carry into effect the foregoing Resolution.

A true copy of the original resolution.

M. G. Betts, Town Clerk.

Less than a year later on April 26, 1865 the war ended with the surrender of General Johnston. Thus with the Union intact and slavery abolished the bitter struggle came to a close. That year found mention of the business end of the War still appearing in the Town votes however.

At a Town Meeting held on 2nd day of October A.D. 1865 in conformity of the above notice

Benjamin Pomeroy was appointed Moderator.

Resolved—That the Selectmen be and they hereby are authorized to fund the present floating indebtedness of the town contracted for War purposes by the issue of Bonds to the amount of Five Thousand and five hundred dollars. Said bonds to be issued in extension of the present existing 2 series—To be of the denomination of five hundred dollars, with six per cent semi-annual coupon attached, payable at such times as the Selectmen may determine. To be signed by one of the Selectmen as Agent and dated July 1st 1865 and sold for not less than their par value.

Resolved—That the Selectmen be and they are hereby directed to execute the Bond of indemnity asked for by the Connecticut National Bank of Bridgeport in the matter of the last certificate of stock of the Stratfield School Fund. The subject of Oysterbeds was brought before meeting and tabled.

Voted to adjourn.

The above and foregoing is truly taken and recorded by  
Moses G. Betts, Clerk.

Fairfield men who had given their lives for their country in this War were:

David Ahern	Bradley Nichols
Benjamin Banks	Franklin W. Nichols
Nathan Buckley	Hans Peterson
James W. Cable	Lewis See
Richard Copelin	David Sherwood
Benjamin Maticer	Martin Storms
Peter MacFarland	Henry Thompson
Francis B. Merwin	Reuben Thorne
Edmund T. Moody	James Walsh

While a great deal of time and effort had gone into this tremendous nation-wide responsibility, the townspeople kept the town affairs going as best they could. Not too many changes or

innovations were evident from the town records however. Instead they voted during the War years to postpone the change of the annual meeting as well as to postpone the subject of voting by ballot. In 1864 all dogs were made subject to registration and numbering and \$800.00 was voted to take care of the Town Poor. There was  $\frac{1}{2}$  mill voted for the Road Tax and 8 mills as the General Tax. This year it was decided to vote for the three Selectmen and the Town Clerk by ballot.

Prices at the opening of the War are interesting. These items and their prices were taken from 1861 jottings found at the Fairfield Historical Society.

1861

Bread \$.05 $\frac{1}{2}$  a loaf  
Tea 1 lb. \$1.25  
1 Loaf of corn bread \$.05  
1 lb. of sausage \$.14  
Butter \$.25  
Oranges—1 dozen \$.60  
Peaches—1 quart \$.15  
1 Potato digger \$.50  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  lb. of Gold Medal Saleratus \$.04  
1 bushel Potatoes \$.75  
1 dozen eggs \$.25  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  lb. of cream of tartar \$.15  
1 lb. of pork \$.15  
Flour \$.05 $\frac{1}{4}$  a lb.  
Beef \$.20 a lb.  
Ham \$.16 o lb.  
Milk \$.04 a quart  
Candles \$.18 a lb.  
4 bunches Shingles \$8.00  
For papering one room \$4.75  
Paid Lizzie (the maid) for 16 days work \$5.35

In 1866 a new means of travel came to Fairfield when it was voted:

“To allow the Bridgeport Horse Railroad Company to lay their rails in the center of the traveled road”.

At that same time it was decided to complete the part of Seaside Park which was in Fairfield at the time. P. T. Barnum the famous showman who was serving the Town as a Hayward for his district at that time received \$200.00 for land which was to be used as a road. Much interest and stress was put on the importance of the continued improvement of the roads of the Town and after much discussion and planning, it was voted to open Iranistan Ave.

The time for the annual meeting was changed to October and this took place for the first time on October 5, 1868. That year the Tax Collector was paid \$350.00 for his services to the Town and there were three types of taxes which he had



to collect. The regular tax was 8 mills, the school tax 1 mill and the highway or road tax  $\frac{1}{2}$  mill.

In 1869 a special tax was laid to pay a portion of the War Bonds and the problems of the open crossings of the Railroad were beginning to appear in town. This proved to be one which confronted not only the Townspeople but also the Railroad for many years to come and mention will be made of this in the pages which are yet to be read.

New voting districts were established that same year and they are included here for interest's sake. The Third District which is outlined, voted at the center district school on Greenfield Hill and District #3 votes in that same building today although the limits of the district are not the same nor is the building the same two room school that it was at that time. These districts did not last for it has been only within the last twenty years at the time of this writing that Fairfield voters voted in District #1, which was west of Black Rock Turnpike, or District #2, which was east of the Black Rock Turnpike. The three voting districts were apparently used for just the one election.

Frank Sherwood recorded in his diary for October 4, 1869—"Voted on Greenfield Hill—Democrats majority in Town 123."

#### FIRST VOTING DISTRICT

##### Annual Town Meeting

Warning is hereby given to the legal voters of the Town of Fairfield that the annual Town Meeting for the choice of three Selectmen and following town officers to wit: Town Clerk, Registrar, Treasurer, Treasurer of the School Fund, Collector of Town taxes, Constables, Grand Jurors, School Visitors, Assessors, Board of Relief and Registrars of Voters, will be held at the Town House of Fairfield on Monday the 4th day of October 1869, and the ballot box will be open from 7 o'clock in the forenoon until 5 o'clock in the afternoon at the Town House in said Fairfield, for the reception of the ballots of the legal voters residing in the first voting district, to wit: within the following boundaries of said district—Commencing near the dwelling house of Jonathan Sturges 2nd at the Central point of the intersection of the Hull's Farms Highway with the highway forming the boundaries between the Towns of Fairfield and Westport or Sturges' Highway. Thence following the center of said Hull's highway, easterly to a highway running Southerly from said Hull's highway opposite the dwelling house of Ebenezer B. Belden. Thence Southerly with the center of said Highway to a point opposite the dwelling house of widow C. Wakeman. Thence Easterly with the center of said highway past the dwelling house of Roger Caley to Brown's Brook, thence Northerly with the center of the highway running past the dwelling

house of John Cull to the intersection of said last named highway, with the highway running Easterly from said point of intersection past the dwelling house of David Hawkins and William C. Sherwood and with the center of said last mentioned highway past the Bulkley School district school-house and to the Mill River at the Bridge over said River, near the Grist Mill of Horace Hill, thence Northerly with the center of said Mill River to the Black Rock Turnpike, thence southerly with the center of the Black Rock Turnpike to its crossing of the track of the New York & New Haven Railroad thence easterly with the center of said track to its intersection with Burrs Road, thence southerly with the center of said Burrs Road to its intersection with the center of the old Stage Road near the dwelling house of George French, thence Southerly in a straight line to the center of the Salt Water Creek, opposite the Coal Yard of David Smith, thence with the center of said Creek to Black Rock Harbor and Long Island Sound.

Fairfield Sept. 28th 1869

Charles S. French	}	Selectmen of Fairfield
Cyrus Sherwood		
Zalmon B. Bradley		

#### SECOND VOTING DISTRICT

##### Annual Town Meeting

Warning is hereby given to the legal voters of the Town of Fairfield, that an annual town meeting for the choice of three Selectmen, and following town officers, to wit: Town Clerk, Registrar, Treasurer, Treasurer of the School Fund, Collector of Town taxes, Constables, Grand Jurors, School Visitors, Assessors, Board of Relief and Registrars of Voters, will be held at the terminus of the horse-railroad, in the town of Fairfield near the residence of David Sherwood, on Monday the 4th day of Oct. 1869, and the ballot box will be opened from seven o'clock in the forenoon until 5 o'clock in the afternoon at the terminus in said Fairfield for the reception of the ballots of the legal voters residing in the second voting district, to wit: within the following boundaries, commencing near the residence of Henry Wheeler on Division Street in the town of Fairfield, and running Southerly with the said street to Long Island Sound and Northerly with said street, to Mill River Bridge forming the boundary between the towns of Fairfield, Bridgeport and Trumbull, thence following said Mill River southerly to the Black Rock Turnpike and running southerly with the center of said Turnpike to the crossing of the New Haven Railroad, thence easterly with the center of said Railroad to its intersection with Burrs Road, thence southerly with the center of said Road to its intersection with the center of the old Stage road near the dwelling house of George French, thence southerly in a straight line to the center of the salt water creek opposite the Coal Yard of David Smith, thence with the center of said Creek to Black Rock Harbor and Long Island Sound.

Fairfield Sept. 28th 1869

Charles S. French	}	Selectmen of Fairfield
Cyrus Sherwood		
Zalmon B. Bradley		



### THIRD VOTING DISTRICT

#### Annual Town Meeting

Warning is hereby given to the legal voters of the town of Fairfield that an annual town meeting for the choice of three Selectmen and following town officers, to wit: Town Clerk, Registrar, Treasurer, Treasurer of the School Fund, Collector of Town taxes, Constables, Grand Jurors, School Visitors, Assessors, Board of Relief and Registrars of Voters, will be held at the school house in the center school district on Greenfield Hill, in the town of Fairfield on Monday the 4th day of October 1869, and the ballot box will be open from 7 o'clock in the forenoon until 5 o'clock in the afternoon at the school-house in said Fairfield for the reception of the ballots of the legal Voters residing in the third voting district to wit: within the following boundary, commencing near the dwelling house of Jonathan Sturges 2nd, and running easterly to a highway running Southerly from Hull's Highway opposite the dwelling house of Ebenezer B. Belden, thence southerly with the center of said highway to a point opposite to the dwelling house of widow C. Wakeman, thence easterly with the center of said highway past the dwelling house of Roger Caley to Brown's Brook, thence Northerly with the center of the highway running past the dwelling house of John Cull to the intersection of said last named highway with the highway running easterly from said point of intersection past the dwelling house of David B. Hawkins and William C. Sherwood and with the center of said mentioned highway, past the Bulkley's School district school house to Mill River at the bridge over said River near the Grist Mill of Horace Hill, thence Northeasterly with the center of said Mill River to the Boundary line between the towns of Easton and Fairfield, thence following the boundary between the towns of Fairfield, Easton, Weston and Westport.

Fairfield Sept. 28th 1869

Attest: R. Turney,  
Town Clerk.

Charles S. French	}	Selectmen of Fairfield
Cyrus Sherwood		
Zalmon B. Bradley		

The Town Hall was repaired this same year and it was voted to purchase a suitable safe. \$3,000.00 was appropriated for this purpose. Academy Pond was filled in with an \$1,800.00 appropriation and it was voted "that no building shall be erected upon the ground made by filling up of the Academy Pond but that it shall remain a part of the Public Green".

Another big problem appeared on the horizon for Fairfield when Bridgeport made it known on November 17, 1869 that a portion of Fairfield was wanted. The following year this problem was brought ever closer as a meeting was called in the Division Street School House and it was voted not to alter or reduce the school district by sending those children to school in Bridgeport. They further voted on March 17,

1870 at a meeting held in the old Methodist Church, against giving part of Fairfield to Bridgeport.

The reported taxable property as of April 1870 was listed in The Southport Chronicle —

The Southport Chronicle Wednesday, April 6, 1870

We are indebted to Mr. Rufus Turney, our affable and accommodating Town Clerk, for the following list of Polls and Taxable Property, in the town of Fairfield, ratable by law on the first day of October, 1869: —

Description of Property	Value
973 Dwelling Houses .....	\$1,172,285
16,187 Acres of Land .....	908,697
53 Mills, Stores and Manufactories ....	24,890
625 Horses, Asses and Mules .....	42,405
1,632 Neat Cattle .....	56,859
292 Sheep .....	870
489 Coachs, Carriages and Wagons .....	28,510
453 Clocks, Watches, Jewelry .....	10,063
95 Piano Fortes &c., not exempt .....	11,457
Household Furniture and Libraries, do.	58,025
Bridges, Turnpike, Plank Road and Ferry Stock .....	834
Bank, Insurance and Manufacturing Stock .....	440,033
Railroad, City, and other Corporation Bonds .....	117,396
Amount employed in Merchandizing and Trade .....	22,050
Investment in Mechanical and Manu- facturing operations .....	19,500
Investments in Vessels, Steamboats, and Commerce .....	108,715
Money at interest in this State and elsewhere .....	162,778
Money on hand exceeding fifty dollars	5,580
All Taxable Property not specifically mentioned .....	10,255
	<hr/>
	\$3,201,202

689 Polls, at \$1.00 each

The annual Town Meeting was held on October 3, 1870. It was an all day affair. The Ballot Box was opened at the usual hour of 10 o'clock on the main floor of the Town House and then at 2 o'clock the Moderator and Registrars removed the ballot box to the larger Hall upstairs to listen to the reading of the annual reports. The voting continued at the same time on the second floor until 5 o'clock when a count was made of the votes cast. If the meeting closed before 5 o'clock, the ballot box resumed its position on the lower floor. During the afternoon period the annual reports were read by the various officers and committee members. The tax rate was set, and other affairs of business were discussed and decisions made. That particular year the Town Clerk, the Judge of Probate and the Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths



were assigned the task of moving the records to the new vault, it was voted that the Town House would hence forth be the place of transacting the official doings of the Town, the Selectmen were to have charge of the care of all roads and bridges, 9 mills on the \$1.00 was set as the Tax Rate, the Tax Collector's salary was set at \$300.00 for the ensuing year, and the Town House was insured for two thirds of its value and the furniture for its full value. The Democratic Party winners that year had 150 majority vote.

It was also voted that the Registrar of Voters would be required to hold one session during the year rather than four for the revision and correction of the voting list.

And further:

"Voted that where the Selectmen find it necessary to plough in front of the bars in repairing roads that the said bars and entrance to lots be left in the same order as found".

Roads were still a real issue during this period and petitions were offered again and again by individuals from all parts of the Town to have roads adjoining their property put in a better state of repair. In 1870 the Selectmen had charge of all roads and bridges as during the past year except in the Southport district, where Augustus Jennings and Samuel Pike were appointed Surveyors of the Highway. The towns-folks were still allowed to "work out their taxes" by working on the Road. In 1876 the records show that the going rate was \$4.00 for a team and \$1.50 for a man per day. Various ways were tried to improve the roads. Surveyors of Highways were appointed that year to take care of the roads in their respective districts. \$4,000 was appropriated to cover these repairs. For 1876 the following were in charge of the highways.

Fairfield—Isaac Jennings and Henry Wells  
 Southport—Henry Hosn  
 Mill Plain—David Beers Jr.  
 Greenfield Hill—Brazilla B. Banks  
 Holland Hill—Charles A. Wheeler  
 Banks North—Sherwood Banks  
 Banks South—George F. Munroe  
 Burr's—Nathaniel B. Hill  
 Bulkley's—John A. Brothwell  
 Jennings Woods—I. Q. Jennings  
 Toilsome Hill—Samuel A. Seeley  
 Hoyden's Hill—Samuel C. Brown  
 North—Michael B. Lacey  
 Deerfield—Francis B. Banks  
 Hulls Farms—Hiram B. Banks

Other years it had been the Selectmen's re-

sponsibility to see that these were put in order. In 1877 it was recommended that the work be put out to the lowest bidder but this idea was rejected. According to my Dad who helped with the roads as a teenager the various Surveyors had certain marks in the roads which started or ended their particular assignment. These boundaries would read something like this had they ever been written down—"Begin at the second swell above Fred Wakeman's (on Redding Road of today near Easton line) and work down to the top of Sim Bradley's hill" (where Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Pope live now—just over the Parkway on Redding Road). On that stretch and others they would work hard for ten hours a day ploughing along the shoulders of the roads, piling up the mud in the center of the road where the horse walked, filling up the wheel tracks and digging out troublesome rocks. The water ways—or swells were very carefully cleared out so that the water would run off instead of following the road bed. Most of this work was done in the summer for a period of two or three weeks after the hay was in. The total earned by doing this was then credited to the family tax bill for that year.

Grass grew along the road except where the horses hoofs or oxen went and in the wheel tracks.

Spring was always dreaded by all, for there would always be a mud hole on Bronson Road just above Governors Lane and another just below Verna Hill Road in front of the present home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Coxe. There would be another on Redding Road just above Catamount Road and on Black Rock Turnpike each year and there were many others throughout town. Those living here knew where they were and tried to avoid them going to and from home when Spring came.

The Southport Chronicle carried an editorial about the deplorable condition of the highways.

*The Southport Chronicle, September, 1868*  
**OUR STREETS**

Probably there is no better test of the public spirit of the inhabitants of a village than the manner in which its streets are kept. When, in travelling through a strange village, we encounter broad and straight or beautifully curved streets, laid out with tasteful sidewalks and grass-plots neatly mowed and kept free from weeds, we are favorably impressed and naturally conclude that the inhabitants have a regard for the welfare of their village as well as for their own private interests. Do we ever realize when walking through our narrow, crooked, zigzag streets, filled with obtuse angles, what the effect must be on



a stranger; and still more do we consider how much easier it would be to widen the streets now, and transform the sharp ugly angles into graceful curves, than to wait until our village is more thickly populated?

Our town is called upon, year after year, to lay taxes to make improvements in the eastern portion of it, adjoining the city of Bridgeport, which city derives most of the benefits of such improvements. Why cannot we stir in the matter and have some of the money thus expended used in this part of the town where it is tenfold more needed. The beauty of a village consists rather in broad, well-kept streets, with neatly-trimmed side-walks and overhanging shade trees, than in the wealth lavished on the dwellings, for no matter how great the architectural beauty of the latter may be, if the streets and other surroundings are not in harmony with them the effect is far from pleasing.

In addition to what should be done by the town in widening and otherwise improving the streets, much could be accomplished by individual effort. It certainly would be a very little tax on the time and attention of our citizens if each one would keep the sidewalk in front of his premises in good order and free from weeds—and by premises we do not mean simply his own door yard, but any land he may own about the village. If all would do this, the appearance of our place would be much improved and we should be enabled to take a walk without the risk of breaking our necks over rotten platforms or roots of trees, or of being obliged to walk in the middle of the street in constant danger of being run over by passing vehicles.

In 1880 a motion was made by Albert W. Knapp to have the Highway Road Surveyors appointed in each district for the year ensuing which was carried by a standing vote of 71 for and 69 against. The rates that year were for a team with one man \$3.50 and for single team \$2.50. It was further voted that property owners were to remove all growing weeds, bushes and shrubbery along the highways.

In 1881 a motion was made to divide the roads into three districts and each Selectman was to be in charge of one district and “to employ two good men with ox teams and a helper for each team and to keep them working until all roads are repaired”. \$1.75 was to be allowed for the helper. This vote was rejected. However \$2,500.00 was allocated for all roads and bridges that year and any individual bridge repair that would exceed \$25.00 had to be put out to bid. The 1876 auditors report showed that Jelliff and Northrop received \$3.25 as payment for one keg of nails and for 40 chestnut posts @ \$.25 or \$10.00 to repair the bridge. Prices of the times are always so interesting.

It was further voted that the Selectmen were to instruct persons not to throw stones in the

highway so as to fill up the water courses. The Selectmen were ordered further to instruct persons not to throw stones on the walks in front of houses.

All the work of the Town was to be done by people living within Town “provided it can be done as cheap as outside”.

In 1885, \$2,650.00 was allowed for roads and it was divided according to the school districts. Those in charge and their respective Budget allocations were:

Edward Hawkins—Southport .....	\$500.00
Horace Jennings—Mill Plain .....	250.00
A. P. Wakeman—Middle .....	450.00
A. R. T. Nichols—Greenfield Hill.....	200.00
Albert Wheeler—Holland Hill .....	150.00
Morris Wilson—Burr’s .....	150.00
John Osborn—Jennings Woods .....	100.00
Ezra Seeley—North .....	100.00
William T. Bulkley—Hoydens Hill ..	100.00
Simon Bradley—Banks North .....	125.00
John Brothwell—Bulkleys .....	125.00
George F. Munroe—Banks South ....	125.00
John Wakeman—Deerfield .....	125.00
B. B. Brothwell—Toilsome Hill .....	75.00
Hezekiah R. Elwood—Hulls Farms ..	75.00
	<hr/>
	\$2,650.00

Only Taxpayers and residents were allowed to work on the highways. From here the question of macadamizing the roads became an issue. The roads were still one of the very large problems of the Town.

Mention should be made of Frederick Bronson, Frederick Sturges and O. G. Jennings who did a great deal to help build better roads from their homes to Fairfield and it was they who really introduced macadamized roads to the Townsfolk.

In 1871 the Town Clerk’s Salary was \$150.00 and in 1873 the Selectmen received \$4.00 each day they were “in the service of the Town”—the total amount not to exceed \$250.00 annually. The Tax rate was 10 mills and \$5,000.00 was “laid out” for roads and bridges. The polls were open from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Election Day. Bridges were to be made henceforth of stone laid in cement.

On September 15, 1873 a special Election was held for a change in the Constitution of Connecticut. The warning for the Election follows—

State of Connecticut  
Office of Secretary of State  
Hartford, September 15, 1873

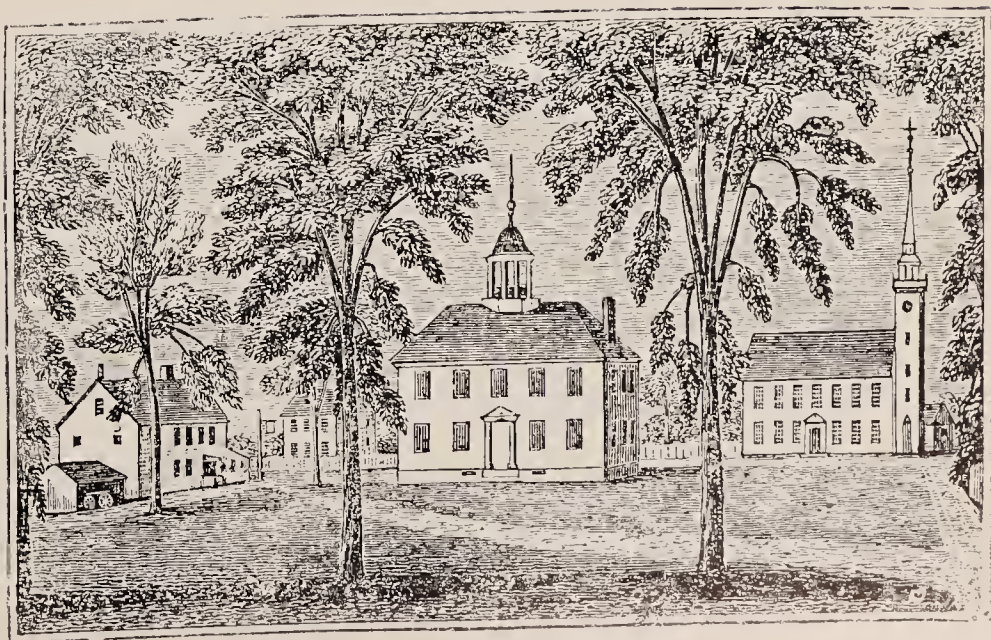
All annual and special sessions of the General Assembly shall on and after the first Wednesday of May A.D. 1875 be held at Hartford; but the person





*The Center of Town—1779*

*Fairfield's  
Village Green  
about 1830*







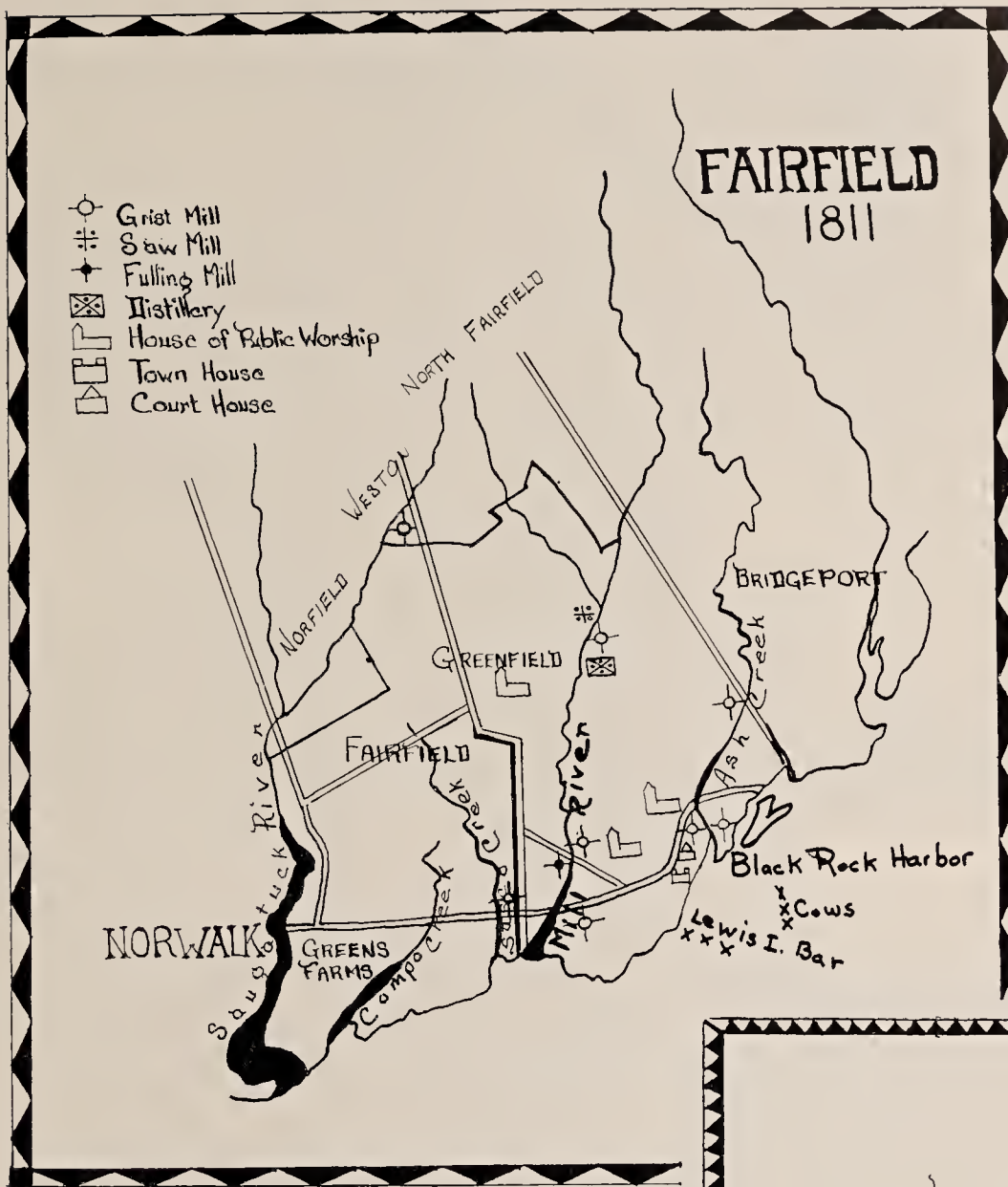
ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

GREENFIELD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH LAST THURSDAY.  
(LOCAL ARTIST.)

(Newspaper Clipping)

150th Anniversary of Greenfield Hill Congregational Church





Map showing location of early Businesses



Map showing Mile of Common and Half Mile Common



*The original Southport Fire House situated on Railroad Place in a building owned by F. E. Northrop. Note the large round metal "alarm" with the metal striking arm below.*



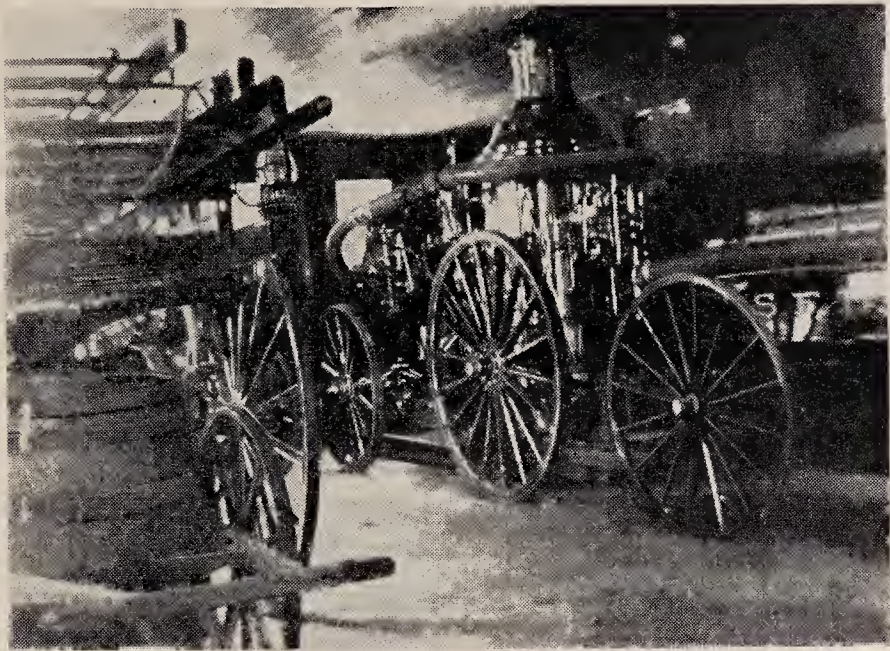
*Washington Hall dressed for a special occasion about 1890. Notice hanging kerosene lamps. (This was upstairs of the "old" Pequot School.)*







Arbor Day Tree Planting—Pequot School—1894. Southport Savings Bank, and old Chronicle Building in background.



Southport Fire Department (note barrel for extra water) 1894.

Horace Banks R  
 Joel — " R  
 John — " R  
 Edgar C. Burroughs R  
 Ezekiah R. Olwood D  
 Lewis Gould — D  
 Wm. Godfrey — D  
 Isaac A. Watkins D  
 Albert B. Hull — R  
 P. B. Hull — R  
 John — " — R  
 Henry — " — R  
 Roger Haley — D  
 Willis Nichols D  
 James A. Osborn D  
 Albert Sherwood R  
 Cyrus Sherwood D  
 Jonathan Sturges D  
 Samuel Wakeman D  
 Seth Wakeman D  
 Wm. Henry Hull R  
 Albert Hanson D  
 J. Dimon Bradley D  
 Wm. Gallagher R

Voters of Hulls Farms - 1874  
 with their politics  
 by Captain Cyrus Sherwood  
 -from Cyrus Sherwood Bradley's  
 Scrapbook

R for Republican  
 D for Democrat



David Gould's Grist  
 Mill and Cider Mill  
 and General Store in  
 Aspetuck where many  
 folks from the north-  
 ern sections of Fair-  
 field had their rye  
 ground into flour and  
 their apples pressed  
 into cider. The sign  
 says "C. H. Bennett  
 —Boots and Shoes".  
 —1872.

L. to R. David Gould,  
 Frank Gould and  
 Charles B. Wakeman  
 with the oxen.

Mr. Gould went for  
 "horsefeet" at the Beach  
 on the 5th of June  
 every year—rain or  
 shine. He generally  
 came back with a  
 lumber box wagon full.



*Lady Washington Tea Party—held at home of  
Simon Bradley—1890*

Front row—l. to r.  
Elva Banks—Mrs. Madison  
Ada Jennings—Lady Washington  
Walter Merwin—George Washington  
Elizabeth Bradley—Mrs. Curtis  
Samuel Wakeman—Page  
Second Row—l. to r.  
Esther Bradley  
Georgia Gould  
Amelia Jennings  
Sarah Wakeman  
Imogene Whittaker  
Francis Conkling  
Etta Nichols  
Helen Jennings  
Julia Brown  
Bessie Archibald

*for benefit of Greenfield Hill Church*



*1899—"In the shade of the old  
apple tree" is where horsefeet tast-  
ed good to me.*

*Horsefeet Picnic*

Left to right—  
William P. Bulkley  
Mrs. Annie L. Penn Bulkley  
Mrs. Judson Bulkley—New Canaan  
Edna Bulkley (Elwood)  
Daisy Waldeman  
William Coley Bulkley  
Jane Morehouse Bulkley  
Taken in backyard of Bulkley  
home, Congress Street, now owned  
by Robert Flack (1960)



*Greenfield Hill Church Sunday School Picnic—about 1910*

1st Row—l. to r. Ronald Bulkley William Dietz Elmore Banks Clayton Banks Raymond Olmstead Winthrop Prentice Earl Bulkley Harold Banks	2nd Row—l. to r. Kenneth Banks Marguerite Olmstead Fred Hoyt LeGrand Wales Lewis Burr —— Evans John Wade	3rd Row—l. to r. Ruby Burr Sarah Banks Cornelia Wilson Beth Perry Geraldine Olmstead Gladys Burr Dorothy Jennings Estella Benedict Grace Banks Mary Wilson Elsie Nichols	4th Row—l. to r. Dorothy Banks Ella Rush Helen Pease Mabel Jennings Mabel Smith Marian Whittaker Florence Merwin Dorothy Perry	5th Row—l. to r. Mary Rush Margaret Wilson Mrs. Olmstead Rev. Olmstead Mrs. Sarah Hopkins Warren Jennings Gorhman Blanche Wade Preston Merwin
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*July 4, 1890—Water Sports on Southport Harbor in front of Meeker's Warehouses —  
“water walking in the harbor”.*

## THE PEQUOT COUNCIL

An Organization of the Citizens of the Village of  
SOUTHPORT, CONN.,

For Village Improvement, assisted by the  
Sasquanaug Association, will give a mammoth  
ENTERTAINMENT AND ENCAMPMENT,

— To Be Held During The —

Week Commencing July 1st, 1890

A Great Aggregation of Home and Imported  
Talent.

The grounds enclosing nearly two acres in extent, will contain mammoth tents, booths and attractions of every variety. The Hall and School Buildings to be occupied by entertainments and special exhibitions of leading attractions.

The Restaurant and arrangements for refreshments, will be of the most complete character.

A Kirmess under the management of the Ladies, and a Bazaar exclusively arranged for their work will be leading features.

Carousals and Merry-go-rounds for the children, and attractive exhibitions for the young people are specially arranged.

A full Orchestra and Brass Band will be in attendance each day.

Shooting Galleries, Photograph Gallery, Foot Races, Walking and Running Matches, Wheelbarrow and Sack Racing, Climbing the Greased Pole and Burlesque Circus.

A variety of Entertainments will occupy the Hall each evening and the entire exhibition will be of a character not only unique in its conception, but most complete in the combination of pleasure giving attractions.

Extra Rooms and Halls for the exhibition of the latest models of inventions and mechanical novelties. Spaces will be furnished by the Council to exhibitors as an inducement for wide-awake individuals and firms who can quickly see the mutual advantage in advertising.

Free exhibitions will be given daily of Yacht Racing, Rowing and Swimming Matches and Water Walking in the harbor.

A grand Balloon Ascension and display of Fireworks each evening.

All applications for space, etc., to be forwarded to

W. H. PERRY, Secretary,



*Main Street, Southport, looking south toward Jennings' Warehouse and Store on Harbor — 1874.*



*Below: Mesnick's Ice House — north of Holland Hill Road — 1920.*



*Below: The "Ada" at Meeker's dock—Southport Harbor—1890.*





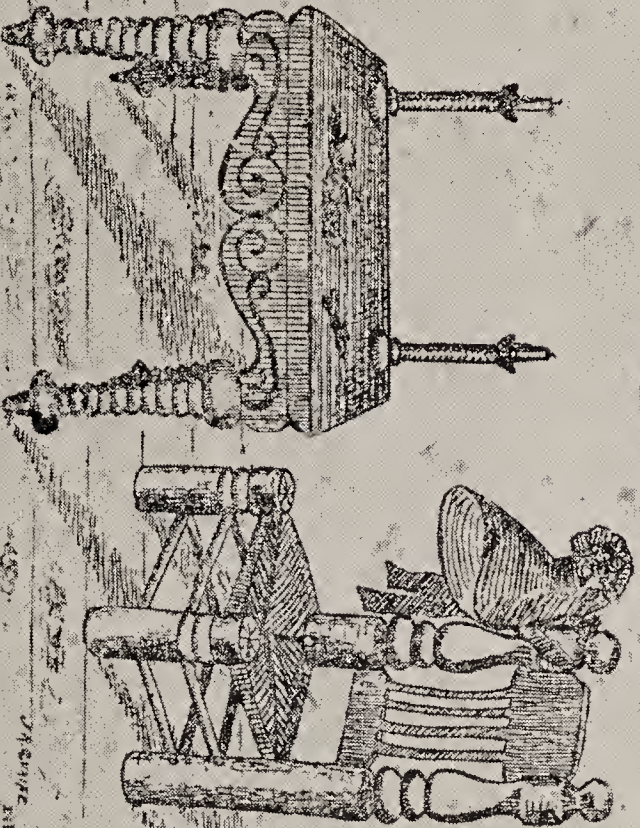
# BASSET'S MANNE



## SINGING & DANCE

M.B. When ye toorne  
clocke

doth stryke eighte,  
ye shewl Marm  
Will bye  
ye tynnyng forke  
and shewl  
will begin.



M.B. Vysseemng lewittie  
or sparkin,  
will be restrained  
bye ye presence of ye  
High Constable,  
Hercules Hardbitters

### Y<sup>e</sup> CUSTOMS AND MANNERS OF YE OLDEN TYME.

Town Hall, Fairfield, Monday & Tuesday Evenng, February 8th & 9th.

ADMISSION 25 CENTS. Tickets for Sale at the Post Office. RESERVED SEATS 35 CENTS.

N.B.—This Entertainment has just been given six nights in Bridgeport with great success.

All Churches, Charities, or Societies desiring to engage this entertainment, address Jed Bassett, 88 Nassau Street, N. Y.

Imprinted by LEON P. KIRK, Printer, at his shoppe, nite on corner of ye Broad high way and ye 14th crossroad in ye town of New

1890 Entertainment at The Town Hall. Admission 25 cents. Reserved Seats 35 cents.



*Main Street, Southport, looking south toward Jennings' Warehouse and Store on Harbor — 1874.*



*Below: Mesnick's Ice House — north of Holland Hill Road — 1920.*



*Below: The "Ada" at Meeker's dock—Southport Harbor—1890.*





# OFFICIAL LIST OF THE VOTERS

## OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD, CONN.

<b>SOUTHPORT.</b> Adams, Charles G. Akers, Patrick Allen, James B. Anderson, John Anderson, John H. Matthew Banks, David Simon Barnum, William H. Bennett, James Isaac H. Barry, Daniel Batterson, Morris Blakeman, Wilbert C. Bradley, Thomas N. Burch, Robert Robert, Jr. Burr, David David F. Levi W. Zalmon B. Bulkley, Benjamin A. Edward M. Frederick W. Franklin George George W. Henry Moses Oliver William Burke, John F. Bond, George S. Callahan, Daniel J. Camp, Alfred A. Chidsey, John B. Collins, James T. Patrick Conwell, Edward J. Conway John Corbuser, Edward P. Corcoran, Christopher Cone, Francis Curtis, Lewis B. Roderick P. Cummins, John Curran, Daniel James, Jr. Crowley, Michael Michael, 2nd Downs, Joseph M. Dishrow, Frederick William A. Donahue, Patrick Thomas Doxey, Martin Eddy, Edward George E. Elwood, George E. Hezekiah R., Jr. Orlando Richard B. William F. Francis, James Furness, Joseph H. Furness, Soren S. Forbes, William D. Gallot, John J. Garvey, John Gillman, Charles M. Godfrey, Jonathan Glaney, James Golden, Edward M. Gorman, John A.	Gorman, Daniel J. Patrick Griffin, Patrick Gregory, George F. Grumman, Charles A. Grumman, William E. Grovenstein, Hiram H. Hall, Edward T. Hawkins, Benjamin N. Edward John Josiah Sydney Hayes, William Heffron, Matthew D. Henshaw, Edward William G. Heary, Felix Holman, William H. Horn, George T. Henry Jelliff, Charles E. C. O. Francis Jennings, Aaron Arthur O. Charles G. Franklin Martin James D. Milton W. Nehemiah William H. Johnson, John Patrick Kaley, David Kelley, James J. Kelsey, Alva R. Keegan, Edward Kessler, Peter Lacey, Charles Lafferty, James N. Frederick R. Land, William Leo, Patrick Lyman, Henry A. Malone, James McCarthy, John H. McClellan, Charles C. McCullom, Arthur McGrath, Frank McKeel, George F. McMahon, Lawrence Meeker, Arthur David S. Charles John Wakeman B. Mips, Henry E. Richard Samuel Mitchell, Marchant T. Monroe, Daniel Ebenezer Elbert B. Moore, William I. Murphy, Thomas Muser, Adolph C. Nichols, Moses Samuel B. Noltmeier, Justus S. Northrup, George E. William F. Oakley, Arthur M. O'Brien, James O'Connors, James O'Dwyer, Timothy Olson, Axel John A.	Osborne, Burr 2d Curtis H. James A. Jeremiah B. Otis, Michael Patrick, John Penney, Albert D. Perry, Charles C. Charles W. Henry H. John H. Thaddeus Purdy, William E. Peterson, August Phillips, Charles W. Gould Fiko, Albert S. Charles J. Francis M. Samuel Rasmussen, Nells Riley, Charles H. James Patrick Rockwell, Charles Roff, Almon A. Russell, David Shaughnessy, John John E. Martin Sheehan, John Shepperd, Robert L. Sherman, Arthur Selleck Sherwood, Elsha C. Edgar S. Francis P. Frederick D. Levi F. Oliver T. Simon C. Siekemund, Horace C. Smith, Edward Frederick R. Gamaliel, Jr. George James Steele, David Still, Andrew J. Spicer, Joseph M. Sturges, Abram B. Trainor, James Taylor, Samuel J. Van Dorn, J. B. Wakeman, Joseph A. Robert P. Stephen B. Walker, Andrew Washington, Aleck Wilhelmsen, Christian Christian E. Witt, J. H. Woodward, Matthew V. Wood, John H.	Bergen, Edward Betts, Benjamin Bibbins, Charles B. Boland, Dennis Bonney, Thomas Bracken, Patrick K. Michael H. Bray, Matthew Brewer, Francis H. Brown, Arthur Brown, Avery A. Bulkley, Charles Wallace M. Burr, David A. James O. William, 2nd Burrows, Isaac C. Bushnell, John E. Bryant, Paige H. Carroll, John Patrick Patrick, 2nd Clemmons, William Cochrane, George Colgan, John Coff, John E. Curtis, Julian W. Dana, Edmund W. Donaldson, William H. Dunn, James John Michael Richard Thomas J. Everly, James Farrell, Michael F. Fitzgerald, John John H. Flanagan, Marcus J. Forsythe, Thomas Gilbert, Jonathan L. Glover, Henry S. William B. William B. Jr. Samuel Golden, William S. Griffin, Patrick, 2nd William H. Hayes, John B. Harral, Edward W. Hewitt, James H. Hoffman, George Hobart, Edmund Hurd, Eugene F. Frederick N. Jennings, Charles B. Isaac Oliver B. Oliver G. Jones, Edgar G. Frederick J. Jay Lyman D. Obadiah W. Samuel R. William R. Johnson, Charles M. Judd, Nelson H. Kavanaugh, William Kealy, John Patrick Kelley, Alvin Edward Harold B. Henry A. Patrick Thomas Knapp, George H. Herbert M. Kinella, Thaddeus H.	Laney, John Leahy, John Lombard, James K. Martin, John McKenna, Alfred Michael Robert McKenzie, Thomas McCann, Christopher John H. McCarthy, John Patrick William Merwin, Lyman Miller, Isaac B. William H. Mills, Henry L. Moore, James John H. Martin Moorhouse, Edward B. John B. Samuel Samuel C. Stephen Murray, William A. Nichols, John Nicholson, Norris B. Osborne, Edward O'Hara, Patrick Perry, Arthur W. Curtis C. Granville Parker, Frank C. Peterson, Hans Phelps, Charles H. Price, Frank Quinn, James A. Randolph, Edward Radcliff, William W. William W. Jr. Bilker, Albert P. Howland, Amory E. Samuel Sanford, Albert W. Seggel, Albert Seery, Thomas F. Seward, James H. Schwartz, John C. Shelfield, Paul K. Sherwood, Justus Slaback, J. Augustus Charles L. Smith, Arthur L. Lewis Marshall L. Staples, William H. Sturges, Edward Joseph H. Sullivan, Dennis Sweeney, Michael F. Swift, Henry C. Thorp, Charles W. Dilazon Joseph L. Thomas, John L. Toomey, Jeremiah D. Turner, Albert George M. George W. Oliver Theodore Vincent, John H. Wakely, Charles B. Francis B.	Wakeman, Andrew P. Andrew S. Samuel B. Weich, James Whalen, Thomas Whalley, William H. Wicks, James Wright, Robert H. Young, William C.	McKenna, Edward Edward J. McTaggart, Thomas Meeker, Edward Maloney, Daniel Patrick Mooney, James William Mullins, Dennis Edward J. John H. Patrick Murphy, Michael Michael, Jr. Joseph Parmler, Horace A. Perry, Burr Redfield, Daniel M. Shannon, Martin Michael Sherwood, Arthur H. David H. John H. Nellis H. Smith, Charles Charles W. Edwin F. Randall Camaliel John H. William H. Surges, Henry C. Sweeney, Patrick Thorp, Frederick Vincent, John Welch, William John Whalen, Patrick Whaley, John Wilson, Bradford Edward W. Soren O. Wilkins, Jeffrey W.	Post, Dilazon D. Ryan, Philip Sherwood, Andrew William J. Wall, John Wakeman, Andrew Andrew B. Howard N. Weller, Henry Wheeler, Thomas H.	Blakeman, Joseph S. Brown, William Brothwell, Benjamin B. C. V. E. Oliver H. Clark, Royal T. Cornell, Walter Feibel, Frederick Frederick, Ja. Graham, Loyola P. Hallock, Frederick D. Holah, Charles E. London, John E. Lyon, Horace Morehouse, Isaac L. Moore, Joseph T. Nichols, Kasper H. Powell, George B. Reitter, Simon Simon, Jr. Riley, Henry Rogers, Henry A. Rouben H. William W. William W. Schroeder, James Thomas Seeley, James H. Samuel A. Warren, John Wells, Osmor B. Jr. Wilson, Arthur S. Isaac B. Edgar G. Robert	Perry, Franklin Frederick J. Hernon Thomas J. Uriah Staples, James Wheeler, Henry M. Wiggins, Joel J. Wilson, Charles W. Charles W. 2nd Henry G. James W. William H. William W. Whittaker, Royal	<b>GREENFIELD HILL.</b> Banks, Barzilla B. Dwight Frank S. George H. Hezekiah Royal S. William H. Beers, Moses W. Betts, Joseph Bibbins, Arthur S. Bradley, Charles P. George H. William Buckley, Henry R. Burr, Oliver Costigan, John Deveau, Charles W. Donaldson, Joseph Dunham, Martin V. B. Finnerty, Frank L. Gray, Charles Howell, Miles Jennings, George King, William V. Meeker, Daniel H. Oliver H. Samuel S., Jr. Samuel S., Jr. Merwin, Bradley Burr Middlebrook, Benjamin B. Milbank, Isaac M. Nichols, A. R. T. John J. Pease, Simon Purp, William B. Sherwood, Lloyd N. Sturges, Thomas B. Thorn, Thomas Van Ness, William	Smith, John G. William A. Thorp, Ezra Van Voorst, Isaac Wakeman, Charles B. Wallace, James M.	<b>BANKS' SOUTH.</b> Adams, Dwight B. Sherman Banks, Curtis Franklin Frederick Simson Talcott Briggs, Leander W. Craft, Henry W. Dishrow, David B. Godfrey, Eugene Merwin, Arthur Hezekiah B. John Morris M. Walter O. Monroe, George F. Ogden, Henry B. Hezekiah B. Horace Perry, Bradley Wakeman, Moses A.	<b>DEERFIELD.</b> Banks, Francis B. Bradley, George W. Thomas B. Burr, Horace Lewis Chase, Oliver E. Dowd, Osmor E. Jennings, James B. Lockwood, Charles F. William F. William H. Nichols, Charles H. Isaac B. James B. Lewis Perry, George B. Raymond, Franklin William N. Thorp, James Lyman B. Wakeman, John Silas Wood, Aaron B. Lemuel	<b>NORTH.</b> Beecher, John Thomas H. Bennett, George S. Bevans, John C. B. Bulkley, George, 2nd Burr, George Gray, David Hall, Nelson T. Hoffman, William Keller, Edward Lacey, Michael B. Lewis, Edward N. Meeker, Bradley B. Morehouse, Aaron S. Joseph M. Meiler, Conrad Seeley, Ezra S. John W. Frank S. Samuel J. Marvin Gray, Asahel J. Hoag, William Kilduff, Thomas Lyon, Orville S. Ludington, Henry A. Mills, Aaron B. Nichols, John, 2nd Raymond, Morris Sharkey, Michael Sherwood, Francis L. Frederick B. Henry B. Salmon Wilson Steebes, George Sturges, Aaron	<b>BANKS' NORTH.</b> Banks, Jonathan Rufus B. Sherwood Bloomer, John H. Botsford, Henry H. Bradley, George W., 2nd Simon C. Zalmon B. Calnon, John Ferra, George B. John W. Goodsell, E. Burr Marvin Gray, Asahel J. Hoag, William Kilduff, Thomas Lyon, Orville S. Ludington, Henry A. Mills, Aaron B. Nichols, John, 2nd Raymond, Morris Sharkey, Michael Sherwood, Francis L. Frederick B. Henry B. Salmon Wilson Steebes, George Sturges, Aaron	<b>HULL'S FARMS.</b> Banks, George A. Horace B. Joel John John Edgar Bassett, George J. Batterson, Charles Bradley, J. Dimon Burr, Timothy E. Elwood, Hezekiah B. Godfrey, William Hawley, James C. Hawkins, Isaac A. Hull, Albert E. John H. William H. Kaley, Michael Rodger Rodger, Jr. Keeler, George W. Price, William Sturges, Jonathan Wakeman, John B. David Samuel Seth	<b>HOYDEN'S HILL.</b> Bennett, William Brown, Samuel O. Bulkley, Elmer T. William T. Green, Leander
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Whereby certify that the above List contains the names of all the electors entitled to vote at the election to be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November (1886), 1886.

Fairfield, Conn., October 27th, 1886.

Church Record Association Print, Southport, Conn.

FRANCIS B. WAKELEY,  
FRANCIS M. PIKE,







administering the office of Governor may in case of special emergency, convene said Assembly at any other place in the State (a true copy).

Attest:  
M. H. Langer  
Secretary of State

Fairfield's vote on this constitution change: 35 yes—in favor of amendment; 477 no—against.

About that time the Railroad received a great deal of attention because of the open crossings. In 1869 it was voted "that the Selectmen be directed to require of the Railroad Company that they keep the crossings of the Railroad in good and sufficient order". On October 5, 1874 it was voted:

Resolved—That the Selectmen of this Town be and are hereby instructed to make application to the Railroad Commissioner of the State to order gates to be erected or a flagman stationed at Mill Plain Crossing and take into consideration other crossings that may be considered dangerous.

Mr. John H. Glover Esq. was to be the Town's Agent to see that this was done.

There had been some very bad accidents. The Southport Chronicle for June 5, 1872 carried a report of Captain Turney.

The death of Captain Turney at the Mill Plain railroad crossing, is a very present evidence of the danger at the place. He was returning home, and as he came to the track he could see nothing because of the curve, and the house directly at the corner. This crossing is one that is used constantly, and it might have been almost any of us. The Railroad Company should maintain a flag man or use some other precaution at this place.

On August 6, 1868 the Chronicle carried a report of the oxen of Mr. David Sherwood being killed.

September, 1868

August 6 a pair of oxen belonging to Mr. David H. Sherwood, Mill Hill were run over at a railroad crossing near Trinity Church by an extra engine. Peter Owens who was driving the team had a narrow escape. As the extra was running inside of lawful time Mr. Sherwood will probably recover the value of the oxen.

In 1885 petitions were prepared by the Selectmen and left in the Post Offices "including the one in Plattsville" for signatures and were then placed in the hands of the representatives of the General Assembly to request immediate change in the Railroad's open grade crossings. They wanted all crossings protected either by gates or a flagman.

Other criticisms plagued the Railroad. One was the train whistle—another the fares. When they were reduced there were loud acclaims from

the Southport Chronicle with an editorial:

*The Southport Chronicle, Wednesday, June 5, 1872*

The most interesting event of the past week has been the reduction of the fares and the issue of excursion tickets by the N. Y. and N. H. Railroad. The fare to New York has been reduced to \$1.35 from Southport, and \$1.40 from Fairfield, a saving of fifteen cents each way, with a proportionate reduction on local fares. Excursion tickets are also issued for \$2.30 from Southport and \$2.40 from Fairfield, subject to these conditions: They are good only on the day sold; they will not be received on express trains; no "stop-overs" allowed on excursion tickets. The Railroad Company also make the provision that the tickets not used, or partly used, may be redeemed by presentation at the office where they were sold. This last is for the relief of purchasers who may not use their tickets.

The travelling public have complained of the high rate of fare on this road for many years, but their remonstrances until lately have been worse than thrown away. This year a measure was introduced into the New York Legislature reducing the fare below Port Chester to a maximum of two cents a mile. Whereupon the Company promised a reduction throughout the road, and on the first of June the new tariff was announced.

Notwithstanding the discrimination in favor of passengers below Port Chester, we feel called on to commend the Company on the change, on the principle of "small favors", etc., and feeling that every little helps. In the matter of excursion tickets, after the very liberal conditions they have added, it would ill become us to complain.

The present effect of the change, as far as we can learn, is to raise one continual grumble, but we feel with the Railroad Company, that the public, notwithstanding the exceptions on some of the New Jersey Railroads, are very unreasonable, and as long as they do not build another road we can afford to let them grumble.

1884—The Railroad must whistle 80 feet before crossing—we did not intend that the infernal screech shall be heard day and night.

And another —

*Southport Chronicle, July 1, 1884*

Wonder if certain parents are aware of the risk their boys run daily by jumping on and off moving passenger and more particularly freight trains? If they value their childrens' limbs, not to say lives, they will stop them from playing around the depot and on moving trains. Otherwise we shall have a terrible accident to report before the summer is over.

In 1878 a motion was made and carried "that the Town accept the telephones placed in the Town House by the Southport, Fairfield and Bridgeport Telephone Company for the use of the Town for public and official business". The sum of \$22.00 being paid to the Company for the phones. A few years later two cells were planned for the first floor of the Town House—



cost not to exceed \$100.00. The vote was taken after a series of burglaries had been reported and a \$250.00 reward was offered for the apprehension of the culprits.

A fine of \$5.00 was proclaimed for riding a bicycle or drawing a horse on the Town's sidewalks—"these for the convenience of the foot passengers".

The annual Reunion of the 17th Regiment of Civil War Vets of the Connecticut Volunteer Association was held at Fairfield on August 28, 1883. Their souvenir folder reported the following:

The Comrades met at the depot upon the arrival of the morning trains. Line was formed at 9:30 A.M. where preceded by the Wheeler and Wilson Band, under the mounted escort of the Citizens Committee of Fairfield, the Association marched through the principal streets to the Town Hall, where an eloquent speech of welcome was made by the Honorable William B. Glover, Representative of the Town, and Judge of the Probate Court. Many of the residences and buildings along the line of march were beautifully decorated with flags and mottoes of welcome.

A large group came to Fairfield for this happy Reunion.

In 1884 a Post Office was established at Samp Mortar Village—two miles north of the Fairfield Post Office and Mr. John W. Morehouse was selected to serve as Postmaster.

Southport Harbor was also improved that same year.

*June 19, 1884*

#### HARBOR IMPROVEMENTS

Four of our active business men, Messrs. W. B. Meeker, Capt. Charles Jennings, Simon Banks and Capt. E. Allen, have decided to remove at their expense, the dangerous reef, which extends at least 50 feet out from shore at the narrows, opposite Meeker's marine ways. They have employed Mr. Hanley, foreman of the construction gang, on the Parallel R. R., who on Monday morning, made a large and successful blast, and is still boring holes for other blasts. The reef that is thus being removed is a dangerous one to navigation, and was uncovered when the U. S. Government improved the harbor two or three years ago.

The rock is about 20 feet wide and 50 feet long, with about 6 feet of water over it at high tide, and uncovered at extra low tide.

The cost of the work will be at least \$150, and we are glad to note this determination to make our harbor safe, at private expense, and not wait for an appropriation from the government.

A few articles from the Fairfield Advertiser, one of the then current newspapers give us a lovely view of Fairfield in the 1880's.

The Advertiser, Sept. 10, 1885

#### THE SEASON AT FAIRFIELD IN 1885

*A Retreat where Rest and Recuperation may be Found*

Like other places of summer residence and resort, Fairfield has its "seasons," but, unlike the more celebrated resorts, its season does not wane with the first signs of cold weather. The cold wave on Wednesday brought out all the wraps and blankets, shut all the windows with a slam and demoralized all the flies and mosquitoes. But nobody here thinks of leaving on that account. On the contrary quite the reverse. It may be news to many to find Fairfield classed among summer resorts, and indeed the village makes no pretentious claims to such a distinction. But there are dozens of families of wealth and culture of New York and other cities who are familiar with its attractions, and fondly appreciative of the blessings of rest and recuperation which it has bestowed upon them. They may have come here at first to escape from the heat of the city, but experience has taught them not to run away when the frosts of early September arrive, for the glowing days and cool nights of autumn, here as elsewhere, constitute the best part of the year. And so it has happened that a number of New Yorkers have established residences in Fairfield, which they keep up the year round, steaming down from the city daily or frequently, and being met at the station by the female contingent in stylish vehicles and becoming apparel and whirled thence in a twinkling to the pretty homes on either side of the long, wide shady main street. Besides these so fortunately domesticated individuals there are the usual number of "summer boarders", lodging either in the hotels or in private houses; and all combine to give an air of gaiety and liveliness to Fairfield itself and to the neighboring villages of Southport, Green's Farms and Black Rock.

#### A CHURCH FAIR

No summer in the country would be complete without its church fair, and the ladies of St. Paul's have recently achieved theirs. The tables were profusely strewn with fancy articles of all sorts, the work of many fair and diligent fingers, while across one end of the room was a bower of lovely natural flowers, and in convenient corners various edible and portable goods were furnished forth in attractive array, the whole forming a picturesque scene. As usual in such cases the most striking feature of the fair was the group of finely-dressed ladies to be seen there, including Mrs. Wright, a handsome Brunette, and daughter of the late Reverend Doctor Samuel Osgood, Mrs. Harral, Miss Smith, Mrs. Glover, Miss Hinckley, Miss Glover, Miss Smith, Mrs. Lombard and Miss Sarah Mills, who extended the courtesies of the affair to its patrons; and among the latter, Mrs. and Miss Phillips of Newark, Miss Taylor of Chicopee Falls, Mrs. Leonard of New York, Mrs. Trask of Hartford, the Misses Jennings and Mrs. Wallace M. Bulkley of Fairfield, and Miss Reynolds of New Haven, whose beauty and elegant costumes won general admiration. The fair continued two days and two evenings, and was quite suc-



cessful socially and financially, the net proceeds amounting to about \$800.

The main recreation here is driving. The town abounds in pleasant and romantic drives, the roads being in good order and leading through richly diversified rural scenery along the coast and among hills, which are not too steep for comfort, but high enough to afford superb views of the Sound stretching from Norwalk in the west to New Haven in the east. One of the favorite drives is to Bridgeport, by way of Black Rock. At Black Rock, where the land forms a high bold cape, there is the excellent George Hotel, destined to become a popular and fashionable seaside resort, and several magnificent residences belonging to Mr. Gilman, the Reverend Doctor Hull and Captain Penfield estates, T. L. Watson of Bridgeport, and Messrs. Pearsall and Thorne of New York. The entire point was bought by Mr. Wells the hotel proprietor, a few years ago for \$750, who subsequently sold four lots upon it to Messrs. Pearsall, Thorne, Watson and Superintendent Stevenson of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad, for about \$50,000; and the Pearsall and Thorne "cottages" were erected at a cost of about \$125,000 apiece. For hard times, this is a pretty fair "deal" in real estate. Another drive follows the rich banks of Mill River up to Greenfield Hill, noble for situation, where is the celebrated fancy farm of Frederick Bronson, of New York, one of the richest and most complete estates in the country. In another direction we reach the pleasant and enterprising village of Southport and rural Green's Farms. Southport has the advantage of a good harbor, which Fairfield has not, and its business interests reap the benefit of it. In Southport there are several fine churches, schools and residences. There lived Frederick Marquand, the benefactor of the Yale College, and there are the handsome residences of the Bulkley, Godfreys, Pomeroy, Perrys, Jennings, Black, Gookin, Sheffield, Sherwood, Wakeman, Monroe, and Curtis families. Altogether, Southport is a place which justifies the pride its citizens feel concerning it.

#### OTHER RECREATION

Besides driving, the people here amuse themselves with walking, bathing and playing tennis. The beach is one of the best on Long Island Sound. Upon it are thirty-five bath houses and a pavilion, which they freely patronize. The view of the beach, out upon the Sound, on a clear, moonlight evening, with Black Rock light on the left, the Penfield Reef red-flash light in the middle distance, and the electric lights of passing steamboats still farther off, is one not easily surpassed or forgotten. On the promenade or veranda the costumes of the ladies this past month at all the fashionable seashore resorts have been mainly white, trimmed with lace and dead mosquitos. These energetic insects are the bane of our American summer, as everybody is only too painfully aware; but they are no worse in Fairfield than in any other place, and since the recent cold snap they have apparently migrated hence, to the unspeakable gratification of the inhabitants. One of the pleasantest walks hereabouts is up the streets on which is situated the large estate of the late Reverend Doctor Osgood, called "Waldstein." It is at

some little distance from the village in a retired and romantic spot, and is famous for its beauty both natural and artificial. By the side of the road stands a pavillion surmounting a high rock, from which Doctor Osgood used occasionally to preach to audiences assembled on the grassy banks below. Another road leads to the extensive and beautiful Oak Lawn Cemetery, wherein the eloquent clergyman now sleeps his last sleep; on the banks of the quiet stream at a spot among the trees which was his favorite haunt for meditation. His monument is simple in style, but impressive. Here are also the Marquand and many other fine monuments. The cemetery would be worthy of any large city, and is highly creditable to the people of Fairfield.

Apparently the Town Green was not cared for adequately for this note appeared in the local paper:

*June 10, 1886—Fairfield Locals*

It now looks as if the old green would be neglected again this season. We clip the following from Fairfield Correspondence in the Standard of the 7th. "Much indignation is being expressed that the selectmen allow the use of the Town House Green, as a horse and cow pasture by a neighboring property owner. Its neglected condition last summer was an eye-sore to residents and visitors. With judicious thinning out of the trees and proper care of the lawn, it would be an attractive spot, far surpassing any of the beautiful lawns for which the town is noted.

A copy of the 1886 voting list for the town is included in this volume. At that time there were 950 registered voters and there were 700 votes cast at the election that year. There were three Parties—Republican, Democratic and Prohibition. The Prohibition Party received 15 votes.

The Blizzard of 1888 is an event well remembered by the oldsters in Fairfield and has been carefully recorded by Mr. Frank L. Sherwood's pen.

March 11, 1888—At home in forenoon—went to Church in afternoon, also at home in the evening. Cloudy all day and commencing to snow about 3 P.M. Storming hard all night.

March 12, 1888—At home all day. William helping do the chores etc.—a fearful hard cold snow-storm as ever known.

March 13, 1888—At home all day—not doing anything only caring for our stock. William helping. The storm still continues, a fearful cold hard storm, the worst ever known—continuing all night.

March 14, 1888—Went to work on the streets shoveling snow, breaking paths, William helping and a general turnout, cloudy all day and snowing some.

March 15, 1888—Working on the roads breaking paths, getting to Greenfield Hill today (he lived on the corner of North Street and Redding Road) William helping and all hands . . .

March 16, 1888— . . . fearful hard travelling . . .



March 17, 1888—Went to Mill in the afternoon also on the Hill towards night, breaking paths in the forenoon to Bill Smith's and to Mr Luddington's.

Mr. Homer Sturges told me too that the snow was as high as the eaves of their barn and they shoveled a tunnel from their house to get to their animals in the barn. The apple trees in their orchard were covered to the top branches.

Benjamin Franklin Bulkley recorded in his diary for that same Blizzard of 1888—

Monday, March 12—A terribly snowy time also very cold at night. I sat up until 12 o'clock. The greatest snow storm I ever saw.

Tuesday, March 13—Another cold day it is—still snowing. Moses had a hard job to get to the barn. A Blizzard.

Wednesday 14—A little more snow fell today. Moses has got the horses dug out of the snow. No one living ever saw such a hard time.

Thursday 15—The sun shines bright. Moses made out to get to the Post Office but no mail since Saturday.

Friday 16—Fri. somewhat cloudy. The men—30 of them and 5 pairs of oxen made out to dig through the snow on the cross road. It is twenty feet deep in the street by our garden.

Saturday 17—A clear bright day. Moses went to the Post Office and got the mail for the first time in a week. It had to be carried over the snow banks on the R. R. by land.

Sunday 18—Pleasant—Sarah walked to Church didn't have but one service.

It was reported that the horse sheds on the Pavilion grounds at the beach were completely destroyed by the Blizzard and on March 30, 1888 in the Greenfield column of the Fairfield Advertiser this note appeared—"We are authorized to state that the Greenfield Hill roads will be open for travel July 1"—a bit of dry humor but evidence that there was still an abundance of snow!

*The Fairfield Advertiser—March 16, 1888*

#### THE GREAT STORM

Nothing could equal the surprise, consternation and helplessness of this whole section in the face of the great storm that so suddenly overwhelmed all things—towns, villages, railroads. And everything has settled about the storm and all incidents are incidents of the storm and its consequences. Never since the railroads were established has such complete isolation of the smaller villages and great cities equally been experienced. For once the oldest inhabitant has been able to draw nothing either from his memory or his imagination to match this experience, and has the grace to acknowledge that this age has at last produced something unmatched even in the past. As yet the dense ignorance of experiences at any great distances has not been penetrated. Even the New York papers give us but little clue to the actual extent of the storm elsewhere. All

news items of any authenticity are therefore gathered from a very limited area. Our correspondents cannot communicate with us and information from even a few miles distant is so mingled with mere rumor that scarcely anything beyond the range of personal examination can be ascertained with certainty or recorded as a fact. But as all information to the farthest point in this country as yet reached reveals the same story of overwhelming snow, and as the experiences of all places so far as heard from present a great uniformity in detail, the record of the storm here will stand as a pretty good description of the storm everywhere. The incidents and experiences of the storm are still so fresh in everyone's mind that an account is the mere rehearsal of that which everyone knows. Still so unparalleled an experience should be written out in full, that the facts may stand on record for everyone who cares to keep them for future reference, in the hope that nothing like this may occur again within the life of any now dwelling on earth.

#### *The Story of the Storm*

On Sunday morning the weather probabilities forecasted light snow followed by warmer weather, and the Monday morning papers prophesied westerly winds and warmer weather. Hence when the snow began on Sunday afternoon, no one expected much of a snow fall, and when the snow changed to rain about 9 P.M. for a while it poured in torrents, everyone retired to their night's repose with only the disagreeable apprehension of mud and slush on Monday.

During the night the weather changed and grew colder. Towards morning the wind rose to a furious gale from the northeast, and by 5 A.M. it began to snow quite vigorously. No special difficulty was experienced or expected by the railroad until nearly 7 A.M. The last train to get through from Bridgeport to Southport was the one due here at 6:39 A.M. which reached here about 6:50. The next train started from Bridgeport but the track became impassable with the rapidly accumulating snow, so that the train never got outside of Bridgeport limits. Two other trains had succeeded in getting through from New Haven, and orders were received there to put all locomotives together and take four coaches and push through to New York and immediately after that word was received here, all communication with the outside world was cut off, and nothing seen here of these engines until Thursday afternoon.

Meanwhile the gale seemed to increase continually in fury, and now the snow so filled the air, that it was impossible to see more than 100 feet or so, and even that distance not clearly, and even breathing was scarcely possible. The effect of the intensely cold air and snow was singularly severe. It suffocated like a plunge into cold water. Locomotion was almost impossible and few were brave enough to travel even short distances from home, and some of those who attempted it almost despaired of reaching shelter. Some were compelled to crouch and crawl on their hands and knees, and others to take temporary shelter behind fences or drifts so as to get their breath.

By 10 A.M. the drifts had collected to unknown depths. In all places where the snow could possibly



lodge the railroad was covered from two to four feet deep, and even on the high embankments the snow was driven upon the tracks as fast as it blew off, and the rails even in such places, were out of sight.

Long before Monday night the railroad presented such a picture of desolation as no one expected to see here. A long reach of white snow outlined the course of the railroad, with no mark of wheel or foot track, no sign of life or animation. Meanwhile the air was filled with the furious howling of the wind which sounded in mournful tones, peculiarly and inexplicably trying the nerves and spirits. Meanwhile the steady falling snow was accumulating in vast quantities, and the wind was stripping it from every unsheltered point and depositing it in railroad cuts and the streets and on the most sheltered sides of the houses. The day passed, night approached, and while the wind seemed at times to lull, it always renewed its howling with redoubled force, and the air grew more and more thick with snow. Small twigs and good sized branches were stripped from the trees and flew whirling through the air, and were dashed with tremendous violence against the houses that lay in their path, and all that afternoon this building was bombarded as if volleys of musketry had been hurled against it.

The furious wind and cold made it impossible for any one to work out of doors, and any work would have been wasted, as the storm filled in foot tracks and the few paths that had been attempted as rapidly as they were made. No locomotive whistle nor sound of traffic of carts or cars disturbed the desolation, and the only sound was the wild melody of the wind, mingled with the crash of branches and trees.

Sometime on Monday a tree in Mrs. Alvord's yard blew down and fell right across the road. A tree in Mr. Charles Wheeler's yard was split, and half of it seemed about to fall upon the house, but lodged without falling. A tree was blown down by Mr. Charles Perry's and in Mr. Oliver Bulkley's grounds. The door of Trinity Church was blown in, and one of the storm windows in the tower and the Church was nearly filled with snow. No one could tell exactly when this damage and other like this was done, but all occurred probably during Monday or Monday night.

On Monday night the wind increased in violence, and some of the largest drifts shifted their location entirely. All day Tuesday the air was full of snow, and the wind raged with scarcely diminished force and the cold was intense the snow seemed falling all the time, but it was so light and drifted so easily that it was impossible to determine how much was drift and how much falling snow. But although the snow was light and no chance had been afforded it to meet, the force of the wind and the weight of the snow had made it compact that in many places it bore up the weight of one who walked on it, and paths cut through the deep drifts maintained their outlines as though walled up with stone.

By Wednesday the weather moderated and the gale had pretty well spent its force. But all the morning the snow fell at intervals in heavy flakes.

But little was done on Wednesday toward opening roads. Everyone seemed paralyzed and overwhelmed

by the extent of the storm and the suddenness of occurrence.

On Monday morning several people had come down from Greenfield Hill, and after one or two attempts to return had abandoned the effort as hopeless. They sought shelter wherever they could find it, and dared not risk going any distance, even to find friends. On Tuesday some started to walk to Greenfield and reached their destination, but exactly when we know not.

Wednesday people started out investigating and a feeble attempt was made towards breaking roads. But many houses were so completely snowed in, with drifts 15 and 20 feet high, reached up to the eaves that all available workmen were pretty well occupied in getting an outlet for the inhabitants and opening paths so as to enable the cattle and their livestock to be tended. The travellers reported tremendous drifts on all the roads, the cut near Eddy's Crossing almost filled with snow, and everywhere the same situation. Among the noticeable accumulations were the snow bank in the center of the town filling the road from H. H. Perry's to the docks, as high as the tops of the fences everywhere and in many places six and eight feet higher. Alongside the post office was a nine foot drift. The entrance to Mr. Henshaw's stables was completely blocked with eight feet of snow, the drifts extending with but little lessening in size, all along that road and past the Churches, and far beyond looming up for hundreds of feet, fully 15 feet above the level in front of Mrs. Gookin's. The drift in the rear of this building was seven feet deep and almost covered the windows. Back of the Southport Railroad Station was a ten foot drift. The cut on the road to Mill Hill was filled to the depth of twelve feet and was not broken through until Thursday afternoon when three yoke of oxen, with a gang of shovelers under the direction of Messrs. D. H. and N. H. Sherwood at last got through. Previous to that Mr. Con. Buckingham had made a route through the fields and come down to Southport on Wednesday, to help make roads in and about the village. But little was done however. But Thursday he came down again, and other farmers came in with their oxen, and on Thursday and Friday considerable work was done, but all roads are not yet open. Until today the roads were impassable for an ordinary horse and sleigh. But today (Friday) some few sleighs and carriages have attempted short trips.

Mr. Edward Henshaw got his teams at work as soon as possible cutting away the snow and breaking roads about his stable. Mr. Simon Banks broke a way through to his store from his residence on Tuesday with a single horse and by dint of great exertion succeeded in keeping the route open. Mr. Edward Golden got out his team by Thursday, and endeavored to relieve the most pressing need of coal in various localities, for the surprise was so great that many people were caught with very short supply of coal and fuel was carried in bags and baskets to relieve the most pressing need. We had only one day's supply of coal at the Office, and consequently we did not dare start the engines to run the "Record", although it was ready to go to press,



lest we should not be able to keep warm, and we knew we had enough fuel to heat the shop alone for two or three days. As the prospect brightened, we started the engines on Wednesday afternoon, though as all our regular pressmen were away and one man had to do three men's work we made slow progress. By Thursday three of our men from Bridgeport walked over and we have since begun to get under-way although progress is still very slow.

One peril soon confronted Southport viz: the short supply of meat. Before Wednesday night the supply was pretty thoroughly exhausted. But on Thursday the steam tug Molly made its way around from Bridgeport and brought some meat, enough to relieve the pressing stringencies.

Meanwhile in and about Southport but little could be done on the railroad as Mr. Kennedy's force of men was small, and he was unable to increase it very largely. But the whistle of the engine of the freight train that passed through here on Monday at 3:28 A.M. (the last train from the west) could be heard whistling and it was reported to be working from Fairfield with a gang from the Quarry. Thursday word arrived that three engines with gangs were working from Bridgeport and a whistle was also heard off towards Westport. After two engines were broken down one engine got through from Bridgeport and the Fairfield engine had driven through the most of Eddy's cut by noon, and men were shoveling the track below. At Eddy's cut the Fairfield and Bridgeport engines joined forces and together flew through the drifts, some of them five and six feet over the track until the Greens Farms Cut was reached. The snow flew in clouds and completely covered the front of the station as the engines passed, and broke glass in the signal tower.

By this train came the first mail that we had received, which was one that should have reached us from Bridgeport Monday morning. A New York paper of Wednesday and Bridgeport papers of Thursday had been brought by boat on Thursday morning.

The situation at Greens Farms, Fairfield and Bridgeport demands separate consideration. But at this writing the snow is gradually settling as it thaws away, the roads are steadily becoming more and more trodden, there are signs of rain in the air, and the people are beginning to awake from the helpless astonishment by "The Great Storm".

#### *The Effects of the Storm*

The results of the storm in the neighborhood were of a similar character to those evident of the immediate vicinity.

In Fairfield the streets were completely blocked, and all traffic completely suspended. The roof and overparts of the Rubber Company's building were somewhat damaged, and the whole structure severely strained by the fury of the gale. The extent of the damage we have not heard but we judge it was not sufficient to interfere with the work of the Company, and will surely involve some expenditure for repairs.

In one respect Fairfield was more fortunate than Southport, in that there were three persons dead whose bodies awaited interment. As soon as any-

thing could be done the resident Selectmen, Mr. Horace Jennings, engaged all men he could secure and broke the road, and by Friday noon the road was reported open to Bridgeport.

In Bridgeport the streets were filled, all traffic suspended, and most of the factories shut down for lack of coal. The municipal authorities and private individuals and corporations got teams to work as rapidly as possible, and have been carting snow and shoveling roads and endeavoring to open up the city. Considerable headway has been made, but the street cars are not yet running and the thaw and freezing has not made the work easier.

Apparently the worst spots on the R. R. were the cuts, one at Greens Farms and the one a short distance below. In the lower one the snow was at least 20 feet deep, and probably deeper before it settled. It reached up to the "tell tale" bells and filled the cut even across. Four or five hundred men worked on these cuts from Thursday till now and the snow is not entirely removed yet. The snow was as solid as hard earth and was removed only by pitching it up with five lifts, while the bottom layer was carried on shovels for a distance of 100 feet or more and deposited on all vacant space along side the road. This drift was a sight to be seen and remembered, nothing like it has ever been seen here before, and it is hoped that the like will never be seen again.

From all sections, as news comes slowly in, the story is the same of utter overwhelming and stupefied helplessness. But we can be thankful that no cases of death have been reported and no actual suffering from destitution. There may be a sadder side when all facts are known, but thus far the unfolding has been marvelously free from any record of accidents on land. From the sea and lakes we may look yet for serious tidings and the loss of time and income to the laborer will doubtless prove a serious matter. And the complete suspension of business the blotting out of the production of so large a section of our country for a whole week practically and retardation of all trade for some little time to come means a loss of millions that cannot be easily replaced. But that we can bear this loss is witness of the country's great wealth and strength, that the hours have been so free from actual suffering is a cause for both astonishment and gratitude. It is surprising that no fires started in our large cities, and had such begun and gathered headway with the absolute blockade of all streets, a conflagration such as has never been known might have blotted out the wealth of a great city, and in such case much loss of life would inevitably occur.

Altogether, hardly as we have been tried there is far more occasion for thankfulness than complaint. And the excitement of the novel experience has kept up all spirits and the holiday being enforced, it has been kept with considerable fun and jollity, despite the antagonism of the elements.

In 1893, the route of the Bridgeport Horse Railroad Company was proposed to be moved from its present route on Main Street to Mechanic Street. (This street is now the Post Road—where our Post Office is). Feelings ran very



high. It was a very excited meeting that decided to keep the Horse Railroad on Main Street rather to move the tracks to the Beach from Benson's Corner along Beach and Mechanic Streets to Hyde's Pond. 284 voted in favor of the Main Street Route and 240 for the Mechanic Street Route were cast. A special meeting soon followed where the whole system of the trolley cars as they were later to be known was thoroughly discussed. On July 15, 1895, two votes were made mandatory. 1. "No street car is to move through any street faster than ten miles per hour. 2. Motors must be shut off by motorman at all intersections".

The discussions with the trolley line continued and on May 27, 1897 it was decreed:

Resolved that: When the Bridgeport Traction Company shall present to the Selectmen a layout which does not locate the inner rail of the track within two feet of the macadam now on said Connecticut Turnpike and shall agree to the same in writing, and also to agree to purchase any and all land (at the expense of said Company) which may be deemed necessary for the purpose of locating the tracks as provided and will agree to finish the space between the inner rail and the road bed and between the rails and two feet on the outside of the rails the same as the rest of the roadway, and at grade to correspond with the rest of the road bed, and will agree that when the macadam is continued to the Westport Line, they will continue it on their line the same as the rest of the road bed. They shall also place block pavements for crossings and build such bridges or parts of same at the expense of the company as will be required. Unanimously carried. Moved that the Selectmen making these requirements of the Traction Company require a certain per cent of the receipts of the gross earnings of the Traction Company to be paid into the Town Treasury annually towards maintaining the road. Passed.

Pictures of these early trolleys are included in the picture section of this book.

It was further voted that a fixed rate of 5¢ to ride on the cars of the Bridgeport Traction Company from Bridgeport to Southport be established.

The Town opposed granting the petition of the Bridgeport Traction Company asking for a charter to extend their tracks to the beach at "Little Danbury along the beachroad so called from Bridgeport to the village of Fairfield". The Town was in favor however of the "petitions of the Company to extend its tracks to Stratford and to Westport through said Town of Fairfield as said extensions would prove to be a great convenience to the citizens of said Fairfield".

On February 20, 1897 at a meeting, the question of permitting more of the eastern part of the Town to join Bridgeport was opened again and the following vote was taken:

Resolved that the Town of Fairfield in town meeting this day assembled hereby protests and opposes the petition of certain residents of said Town and others asking for the annexation of a certain part of said town known as Stratfield to the City of Bridgeport and hereby directs the Selectmen of said Town to take such steps as in their judgment may be proper and necessary to effectually oppose the said proposed annexation. Unanimously carried.

During that same year it was made necessary for the Selectmen to put a sign upon each bridge specifying the poundage or weight which it would carry. It was also planned in 1897 to build a new Mill Plain bridge. The new bridge was to be of either iron or steel and one of such length and width as the Selectmen deemed best. The bridge was to be built by contract and was to be capable of carrying 15 tons.

The bridge which was being replaced had been a wooden structure and it seemed that a heavy road roller (an iron roller loaded with rocks) was being pulled across it by four horses when the weight proved to be too much and bridge, roller, horses, driver and all found themselves in the river. They were coming from Fairfield Center and headed toward Bronson Road. No one was hurt but all got a good soaking and the Town built a new bridge as a result. This was the bridge just west of Unquowa Road.

When the bridge was rebuilt some of the work must have been done on Sunday for we find "Resolved that the work performed on the Mill River Bridge and at the Greenfield Hill School on recent Sabbaths was wholly inexcusable and the authorization of the same by the Town officers is hereby deprecated". Passed. The new bridge was an iron one and one which many of us remember. The cost to the town was \$4559.88.

In the same period the town voted to repair the main macadamized road between Ash Creek and Southport and to make it 22 feet wide. There were 52 attending the Town Meeting with 28 voting in favor and 24 against—\$4500 being estimated for this work. A picture of this road as it then appeared is included in the picture section.

The Budget voted October 3, 1898 is included here.



Pay of Town Officers .....	\$ 2,300.00
Town Hall and Offices .....	700.00
Election Expenses (2 elections) ....	125.00
Cemeteries .....	125.00
Health Officers .....	50.00
Insane Poor .....	750.00
Town Poor .....	3,000.00
Bridges and Roads .....	7,000.00
Care and Repair of Town Property	1,000.00
Taxes .....	375.00
Return of Births & Deaths .....	35.00
Schools .....	11,000.00
Bonds to be paid .....	3,000.00
Interest .....	5,250.00
Sundries .....	500.00
	<hr/>
	35,210.00
Special work to macadam Main St. from Ash Creek to Southport ....	4,500.00
	<hr/>
	\$39,710.00

In September 1898 a Fresh Air Hospital for convalescent soldiers was established on South Benson Road. There were 12 soldiers who came from Montauk Point on the Red Cross yacht to Bridgeport and with the courtesy of the Traction Company were transported to Fairfield on a special car. Carriages awaited the men at Benson Corner. The men had come from Cuba on September 13th having spent four days at Montauk Point. They had been ill since El Caney and the fall of Santiago. The following Saturday four more arrived and the next Saturday seventeen more. Their gaunt and sallow appearance,

tottering gait and subdued demeanor were indeed a startling sight. For the hospital the local Red Cross supplied 93 pair pajamas, 5 dozen sheets, 2 dozen tumblers, 4 table cloths, 2 dozen cups and saucers, 92 pair of socks, 1 dozen blankets and the National Red Cross supplied one barrel of jelly, one barrel blackberry brandy, one box of prunes, 4 boxes French soup, 20 blankets, 2 dozen suits of underwear etc. etc. The Fairfield folk gave chickens, fish, meat, eggs, jellies, cakes, crullers, pies, dishes, lanterns, beds, bedding, chairs, dippers, pans etc. etc. as well as 590 quarts of milk and 107 dozen eggs.

On the first Sunday afternoon the children of St. Thomas Church at the suggestion of Father Coleman brought 27 dozen eggs. The name of giver being written on each egg. Patsy McGarry supplied the hospital with four daily papers so that the men were able to inform themselves concerning the fortunes of soldiers and the movements of the United States troops.

When the men were strong enough to enjoy drives, carriages were provided and they were able to go about the highways. The Bridgeport Traction Company gave free transportation between Fairfield and Bridgeport to the soldiers when they wanted it. The men were convalescents from malaria and typhoid. All left greatly restored in health and returned to duty at Manila.



## CHAPTER 9

### 1900 - 1940

The new century came upon the growing Town and expansion and its many challenges faced Fairfield on all sides. A new bridge was muchly needed over Ash Creek and in 1902 a resolution was passed in the Town Meeting "to regulate the speed of automobiles on the highways in Town". Look in the picture section to see Ash Creek bridge.

In 1904 all streets were ordered named and marked and it was voted to mail a copy of the Town Report to every taxpayer just prior to Election.

It was felt necessary also to light the streets in some manner and a Committee was appointed to look into this possibility in 1905.

The roads continued to be a problem and there was need for wider roads and more of them. Reef Road, as we know it, was planned at this time and also a roadway 30 feet wide was to be built "passed Little Danbury toward Little Bridgeport".

In 1906 the Street Lighting Committee reported and it was moved "That the Selectmen be authorized to arrange for the lighting of the Main Street from the Ash Creek bridge to the Sasco Creek bridge by gasoline lights for a term of not over 3 years at an expense of not over twelve dollars per annum". However after much discussion this motion was laid on the table.

The citizens furthered their interest in the highways and were anxious to make travelling easier for all. They planned to put the macadam roads in Town in good condition and it was also voted that the street car tracks should be "not less than several inches lower than the crown of the wrought or worked part of the highway . . . and to see that the Trolley Company does not raise the level of said tracks . . . and further to prevent the Trolley Company from dumping its freight at various places on the public highway". Evidence of this interest appeared again in 1908 when it was decided that "the main road between Ash Creek bridge and the Westport line is to be watered (to keep the dust down) from end to

end and that they top dress the same as far as the same can be top dressed in addition to the watering at a total expense for watering and top dressing of not more than one thousand dollars, provided that none of this work be done except with the written approval as to the method of doing it of Highway Commissioner McDonald" (State Highway Commissioner). At about the same time the sharpness of certain corners were to be corrected as it was voted that . . . "The Selectmen have a schedule prepared showing the feasible ways of removing the danger owing to the sharpness of the turn from the Reinecke's Corner, Hopkin's Corner, and the Carey Corner".

The following year the purchase of an oil wagon for one hundred and fifty dollars was authorized.

At the annual meeting on October 3, 1910, the following resolution was passed: Resolved that the selectmen be and are hereby authorized in their discretion to provide street lights for the Villages of Fairfield, Southport, and Stratfield with an equal number in each village at a cost not exceeding twelve hundred and fifty dollars per year".

Every effort continued to slow down the motorists on the highways and hillclimbs, a popular Sunday afternoon sport, were restricted.

Resolved that the Town Officers be and hereby are requested diligently to prevent unlawful speeding of automobiles on the highways of the Town, and particularly to endeavor to prevent speeding of automobiles in races and in so called hillclimbing contests.

These latter mentioned contests were popular on the open field hill of the late William Ferris on Bronson Road on the left just north of Sturges Road, up on Sport Hill, and especially on Snake Hill. There is a picture of Snake Hill (now Burr Street above Brookside Drive as it looked then) with the pictures here. On May 2, 1910 this article appeared in the Bridgeport paper.

*Snake Hill Sundae*—The 'Snake Hill Sundae' is a new drink, originated by John E. Boyle. It is guar-



anteed to make hill climbing easy. (John E. Boyle was the popular local druggist.)

In 1911 ten additional street lights were ordered in the Nichols Terrace section of Town and two years later one hundred additional lights were arranged for with the United Illuminating Company and in 1912 new bridges were scheduled at the Tide Mill near the residence of J. F. Brothwell and at Moody's Mill.

The need for more and better roads echoed in all parts of town. Everyone requested that work be done on the road adjoining his property. The going rate for teams was raised to six dollars and a man would be paid two dollars a day for his labor...

Mosquitoes in large masses were plaguing the residents and a committee was appointed in March of 1912 to attempt to solve this new problem.

The need for greater fire protection was recognized early because of the increase in the number of homes about town and on March 16, 1910 the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved that the Fairfield Fire Company for the past seventeen years has given their time and money to protect the property of Fairfield and it has come to a time that the growth of the Town has grown to be a different proposition and to fight the fire or fires they cannot get by with their present equipment, and they came to the Town for aid; the first time in seventeen years. In a word, they want one thousand dollars to help pay for an auto chemical combination truck to fight not only the fire or fires of Fairfield alone, but any part of the Town. The present number of firemen are sixty-five and seventy-five percent are taxpayers. Motion made that we take a ballot upon the resolution read by the clerk. At this point the resolution was withdrawn and the following motion was made: Moved that the Town appropriate the sum of one thousand dollars for the purpose of purchasing an auto chemical combination fire fighting apparatus, to be used by the Fairfield Hook and Ladder Company. Motion passed.

One realizes continually that problems never hindered progress with our forebears and we should be ever mindful of this great characteristic today. As something new troubled them, they coped with it but never did they let it overshadow their "looking ahead" or "forward" as the name Uncoway suggests.

In 1913 the purchasing of voting machines rather than continued use of the Australian ballot was considered, a fire alarm system was installed for now there were three Companies and Miss Annie B. Jennings opened the beach which bordered her property on Beach Road, to the

public.

More hydrants were deemed a necessity in March 1915 and permanent sidewalks were recommended. More lights and road improvements too continued as priority items.

In 1916 the streets were officially named and street signs were put up.

For some time there had been agitation for a high school. First an eighth grade class room had been established at Sherman School and later in other sections of town. Then a high school program was developed for these youngsters.

On December 12, 1916, Miss Annie B. Jennings gave the Brown property to the Town for use as a High School. A complete report is given in the School section of this book and there are pictures in the picture section of this first secondary school building. This estate included a large house and property and was on the site where Roger Ludlowe High School stands today.

Better transportation was sought in the Town in 1917 with a request to the Connecticut Company for double tracks in Town. The reasoning was that in 1896 when the single track was laid there were only four thousand people whereas now the total had reached eight thousand. The fare had been raised from five cents per ride to six cents and the townsfolk felt this increase "unjust and uncalled for".

World War I was casting its shadow over Fairfield and efforts were again in order for the Town to carry its share of the load. In February 1917 thirty-six military census agents were appointed by First Selectman Rowe to enroll all men. This census was carried on through personal calls by the agents. On March 29, 1917 in the Bridgeport Telegram this article appeared.

Fairfield's Home Guard—Fairfield's recruiting officers for the Home Guard are starting work in earnest now, taking the names of applicants, and a meeting of the Board will be held Sunday at the Town Hall to consider ways and means of enrolling men enough for a company. Although a number of the local men are in favor of the formation of a demounted cavalry company as suggested by Col. Alling, it is not known whether such a unit will be organized, and will not be known until the men have gathered and expressed their desires. Young men of Fairfield between the ages of eighteen and thirty and unmarried who cannot be persuaded to enlist in the Bridgeport militia companies, will be enrolled in the Home Guard of Fairfield. Later when the Governor makes a call for men for the militia organizations or the President demands men of Fairfield for the navy or regular army, those eligible for such work will be automatically discharged and re-



quested to enlist in other branches. Eligible for Home Guard are all men in the Town of Fairfield between the ages of sixteen and sixty. It is hoped to get all between seventeen and forty-five. Men older than sixty will not be taken. Application blanks may be had of Superintendent Leach of Handy and Harmon Company, of Town Clerk Joseph I. Flint at the Town Hall and of Winthrop H. Perry at the Southport Bank. Fairfield has much territory to guard if war is declared and a Home Guard organization will be found of great use. The enlistment period is for two years and if there is no war, drills of the company will not be frequent.

War was declared by the United States on April 6, 1917. Then:

#### EXPECT LARGE CROWD AT MEET IN TOWN HALL

Fairfield and Southport Men Expected to Turn Out for Home Guard Discussion—Fairfield April 12—(Special) Benedict Holden, a member of the Military Emergency Board of the State is expected to stimulate recruiting in the Fairfield Home Guard to a great extent when he speaks here Friday night in the Town Hall. It is expected that large delegations from every part of Fairfield, Southport, Stratfield and Greenfield Hill will be on hand to hear of the purposes for which the Home Guard is being organized. Mr. Holden comes from Hartford. He is a member of the Commission appointed by Governor Marcus H. Holcomb to take care of various plans for State defense. It is believed that the Home Guard idea which is now being carried out in many other states, is one of the best for protection. It is hoped that at least two hundred men, young and old, married and unmarried, of Fairfield, Southport and Stratfield will join and take training. The work has gone slow in Fairfield. In other towns and cities, drilling is being carried on now. Machine gun platoons have been formed, equipped and drilled. But Fairfield has but the nucleus of the Home Guard organization. Men are wanted at the meeting tomorrow night. All misunderstandings about the plan will be cleared up by Mr. Holden's plain statements. The meeting will open about eight o'clock.

Again on:

April 28—HOME GUARD SESSION—Fairfield's Home Guardsmen had their first drill last night in Sherman Hall under the direction of Colonel Paulding, a retired United States Army Officer. The eighty men present were divided into two double lines . . .

At the first registration on June 6, 1917, 1035 men were registered and there were twenty registrars at work throughout the day at the Town Hall.

On July 9 a list of the eligibles for conscription was posted in the Town Hall, together with the key numbers that were to be utilized in the draft. The young men were requested to ascertain the numbers so that when the draft was made they would know whether or not they had

been conscripted. Notice was sent by mail but the initial announcement came through the newspapers.

Dr. William H. Donaldson served as Chairman and Executive Officer of the Thirteenth Exemption Board which had jurisdiction over the towns of Fairfield, Stratford, Weston, Easton, Westport, Newtown, Trumbull, Monroe and Shelton—the Twenty-fifth Senatorial District, and he was assisted by J. Henry Blakeman of Stratford, and John H. Treadwell of Trumbull.

One list of the eligible men was sent to Washington, the other remained on file in Fairfield. The total of the lists for all nine towns reached 4300 names.

Many Fairfield names were among the first numbers drawn. 382 was the quota under this call for the Thirteenth Board. The Exemption Board held their examinations in each town on different days.

. . . held its first examination today in Shelton. On Friday and Saturday at nine o'clock here for Fairfield, Westport, Trumbull, Newtown, Easton, Weston and Monroe men . . .

Of the 901 ordered to appear from the district 188 men were from Fairfield—about twenty percent. The Examining Board of Physicians was made up of Dr. Francis I. Nettleton of Shelton, Dr. William H. Cogswell of Stratford, Dr. DeRuyter Howland of Stratford, Dr. Frank H. McLaury of Westport and Dr. D. C. DeWolfe of Bridgeport.

The Thirteenth Board was swamped with work. Robert P. Shelton was in charge of the office and Miss Emma Allen, long time secretary at the Town Hall was in charge of clerical work but Dr. Donaldson requested many volunteer clerks to assist with the work of making and keeping records, to answer questions in letters, etc. etc.

On September 19th Fairfield gave her draftees a real sendoff. Town offices, schools, banks, public buildings and stores closed at noon in tribute to the local boys who left early the next morning for the training camp—Devens in Ayer, Massachusetts. About thirty-four boys were in this group and all were given wrist watches which had been purchased from a public subscription. The exercises were held on the Green in front of the Town Hall. The gold watches were presented to the draftees by Judge Alfred B. Beers of Bridgeport who was a former commander-in-chief in the Grand Army of the Republic.



Well the draft went on. 251 men were called from Fairfield for examination on October 19th and so on.

While the draft was in progress and the war continuing, as during times of duress before, the home folks worked hard and together to do their part.

The Home Guard—Company M—Fourth Regiment Connecticut was equipped with uniforms, Springfield rifles and drilled regularly. Their monthly reports show:

1917 Company M organized, Capt. William E. Smith appointed April 30th, First Lieutenant William Van Kirk, Second Lieutenant H. W. Goldsborough. Members sixty-five—Sixteen drills held in May—Average attendance ninety-one percent—average time occupied in drill one and one half hours school of the soldier and school of the squad. Sixteen drills held in June—average attendance ninety-two percent—time occupied for drill one hour forty-five minutes. Two company drills held on parade grounds and two street parades. Seventeen drills held in July. Average attendance eighty-five percent—one inspection—Company drills, Platoon drills—Guard drills—Officers School.

Dates of drill in August:

- 1st—Company drill
- 2nd—Drill non-coms
- 6th—First Platoon School of the Guard
- 8th—Guard drill
- 11th—Company drill
- 12th—Battalion drill in Bridgeport
- 13th—Company drill
- 14th—Second Platoon drill
- 15th—Company inspection
- 20th—Drill of the Company
- 21st—Guard duty
- 22nd—Extended order drill
- 23rd—Inspected by Col. Wilson of Bridgeport
- 27th—Drill at guard duty
- 28th—Drill of the First Platoon
- 29th—Company drill
- 30th—Guard drill

Total—eighteen drills—average attendance eighty-seven percent. The members are taking great interest in their work.

September:

- 4th—Drill and parade
- 5th—Drill and parade
- 8th—Range practice
- 12th—Company drill and guard duty
- 15th—Range practice
- 17th—Marching and guard duty
- 19th—School of the Company
- 22nd—Range practice
- 25th—Guard duty
- 27th—Company drill
- 29th—Range practice

Average attendance good—all members interested.

October:

- 2nd—Skirmish drill
- 8th—School of the Company

- 12th—Guard drill
- 14th—Battalion drill in Bridgeport
- 15th—Signal and Company drill
- 21st—Sham battle in Westport
- 24th—Company drill
- 31st—Company drill

Four members received discharge. Five reserves drilling. First line Curtis, Green, Sherwood, Riker, Downs . . . etc. etc.

On April 26, 1917, Governor of Connecticut Marcus Holcomb appointed the Connecticut State Council of Defense by proclamation . . .

With one and under my direction to conduct the prosecution of the war so far as concerns this state and with power to cooperate with other states and with the Federal Government. . . Multiplicity of organizations attempting to do the same thing results in duplication and waste. If our state is to perform its part to its fullest efficiency, there must be no waste and, therefore no duplication . . .

Then within each town in the State a War Bureau was chosen to supervise all War activities within the Town. Mr. Bacon Wakeman was chosen Fairfield's chairman and he received the following letter:

Connecticut State Council of Defense  
State Capitol  
Hartford, Connecticut

December 26, 1917

The Fairfield War Bureau  
Mr. Bacon Wakeman, Chairman  
Fairfield, Connecticut  
Dear Sir:

This is to advise you that the Fairfield War Bureau is hereby constituted the official war agency for the State of Connecticut in the Town of Fairfield.

Faithfully yours,  
Connecticut State Council of Defense  
Executive Office  
W. F. Whitmore

Other members of the War Bureau as of September 2, 1918 and their respective committee assignments were:

War Bureau Committee Members

- Bacon Wakeman, Chairman
- Joseph I. Flint
- Frederick Sturges, Jr.
- Rev. Frank S. Child
- Mrs. William B. Glover
- Mrs. Samuel H. Wheeler
- Mrs. DeVer H. Warner
- Rev. William J. Blake
- Edward Phelan
- Capt. William E. Smith
- Frank E. Morgan
- James O. Buckley
- Mrs. Joseph L. Hetzel
- Frederick C. Banks
- Mrs. Thornton J. Belden



Charles A. Rowe  
 Arthur L. Johnson  
 Mrs. John W. Wright  
 Finance Committee  
 Frank E. Morgan  
 Frederick Sturges, Jr.  
 Mrs. DeVer H. Warner  
 Relief Committee  
 Charles A. Rowe  
 Mrs. Joseph L. Hetzel  
 Mrs. Thornton J. Belden  
 Information and Research  
 Joseph I. Flint  
 Miss Nellie Wheeler  
 Mrs. Henry S. Glover  
 Agricultural  
 James O. Bulkley  
 Frederic C. Banks  
 Publicity  
 Mrs. William B. Glover

The by-laws effecting the Bureau and its Committees were as follows:

Whereas, our Country is now at war and all its resources are needed for the prosecution of the same and should be duly husbanded and its energy, products and financial resources should be efficiently and economically administered; that, for the accomplishment of these objects there should be adopted a rule controlling individuals, societies, clubs, associations and corporations in their solicitation of funds or other property for all objects arising from the war or otherwise, the following By-Law is hereby adopted as a guide and for the control of these efforts.

Therefore be it Resolved: That no individual, society, club or corporation shall solicit funds or other property by a public appeal for the above named purposes within the limits of the Town of Fairfield without first securing the approval of the War Bureau of the Town or its delegated agents, and said Bureau or its agents before granting the approval above mentioned shall demand certain general requirements as follows:

1. All agencies of national or state-wide scope, excepting the Red Cross, Y.M.C.A., and Knights of Columbus, shall present with their application a letter or other sufficient evidence showing the approval of the State Council of Defense at Hartford.
2. All agencies, local in character, must present the following qualifications.
  - a. A responsible and acting directing board holding regular meetings.
  - b. A necessary purpose not duplicating in a field already effectively covered.
  - c. A reasonable efficiency in work accomplished.
  - d. A non-use of solicitors, on commission, for any purpose, or of entertainments the expenses of which are disproportionate to the receipts.
  - e. An Audited financial statement to the War Bureau for its approval.

Their activities were varied and many. The agenda for two of their meetings are included here.

#### April 19, 1918—Reports

1. Finance Committee
2. Relief Committee
3. Information and Research Committee
4. Foreign Born Population

#### New Business

1. Agricultural Committee
2. Smileage Book
3. War Savings Stamps
4. Liberty Chorus
5. Choice of Secretary
6. Consent of financial campaign County Y.M.C.A.
7. Regulation of entertainments and solicitation of funds.
8. Food conservation—Home cards
9. Legal adviser for Soldiers and Sailors

#### September 7, 1918—Agenda of Meeting

Poster—Soliciting Funds publicly

War Chest—Plan

War Savings

Smileage Books (These helped provide entertainment for the boys at Camp)

Drafted-Enlisted men—Send off

Organization should be more complete

Town Support

Gasoline Conservation

Registration Day

Honor Roll

Some of their reports to Governor Holcomb are highly informative and certainly show the genuine and sincere role which Fairfield folk played.

#### Report to Governor Holcomb as of October 29, 1918

Number of Fairfield men in Armed Forces of the U. S. ....	405
Number of Fairfield men in civilian war service overseas .....	4
Number of Fairfield men who died in service .....	3

#### Liberty Loans

	Quota	Subscribed
1st	\$44,000	\$83,200
2nd	66,000	200,000
3rd	82,900	219,000
4th	165,800	292,050

#### War Savings Campaign Stamps

Amount Pledged .....	\$24,017
----------------------	----------

#### Red Cross Drives

	Quota	Subscribed
1st	\$ 8,000	\$17,000
2nd	15,000	27,400

#### Red Cross Membership

Adult .....	1845
-------------	------

#### Red Cross Supplies

1. Hospital garments and supplies completed .....	234,110
2. Surgical dressings .....	211,960
3. Knitted goods .....	4,377
4. Comfort kits .....	625



## Y.M.C.A. Drive

	Quota	Subscribed
	\$5,000	\$24,000
Library Fund	Quota	Subscribed
	\$ 400	\$ 400

Have you a Liberty Chorus—yes  
How many?—3 (Fairfield, Southport, Greenfield Hill)

Number of members—105

These were busy days for all. Activities abounded. Great emphasis was placed on preserving all food, especially what could be raised locally. A Canning Kitchen for the Town was established at Sherman School and all were urged to bring their food stuffs to that center to prepare for the less abundant days ahead.

### THE FAIRFIELD CANNING KITCHEN

Under the auspices of  
The Home Economics Committee

The Fairfield Canning Kitchen has been opened at Sherman School, Fairfield, and will be in operation on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from nine a.m. until five p.m. Its primary object is to preserve for the coming winter all products of Fairfield gardens and orchards which might otherwise be wasted.

Householders may bring their own products to be canned at cost for their own use and surplus products are solicited to be canned for sale, the net proceeds to be devoted to war work. Old jars in perfect condition are solicited for this war work.

The following regulations are to govern the kitchen:

All products must be fresh picked and brought to Sherman School at nine a.m. Nothing will be accepted after eleven o'clock. Notice of the quantity and variety of products to be canned must be sent the day before to Mrs. William B. Glover. Phone 298-3.

All rubber rings are to be furnished by the kitchen, no other rings used. Perfect jars may be brought from home or purchased at the kitchen. The cost of canning includes labor, salt and the rubber rings. Householders who have received their full quota of sugar must furnish their own sugar. Fruit will be canned in syrup not richer than twenty-five per cent.

#### Canning Prices

String beans .....	10 cents per quart jar
Shell beans .....	10 cents per quart jar
Corn .....	10 cents per quart jar
Peas .....	10 cents per quart jar
Greens .....	10 cents per quart jar
Carrots .....	10 cents per quart jar
Beets .....	10 cents per quart jar
Squash .....	10 cents per quart jar
Tomatoes .....	8 cents per quart jar
Fruits (not including sugar)	8 cents per quart jar

A competent trained supervisor will have charge of the kitchen, and volunteer workers will assist in the preparation of products for canning.

The cooperation of all is needed to make Fairfield self supporting in the conservation of fruits and vegetables.

In addition every effort was made to encourage home canning as well. These cards were distributed widely in Fairfield and throughout Connecticut.

### CONNECTICUT CANNING CORPS

#### Enrollment Card

As a patriotic citizen, desiring to help win the war, I PLEDGE myself to can at least ..... quarts of Fruits and Vegetables, thereby saving perishable foods and relieving transportation.

Signature ..... Age (if under 21).....

P. O. Address .....

Town .....

The Food Administration is doing everything in its power to encourage home canning and gives assurance that no home canning products will be seized by the Government.

#### Committee of FOOD SUPPLY

Connecticut State Council of Defense

Connecticut Agricultural College County Farm Bur.

A poster at the Fairfield Historical Society reads in this manner:

### WOMEN OF AMERICA

Get Busy

and

PLANT

and

CAN

and

DRY

and

SAVE

There were Red Cross Sewing Groups and even the boys and girls were organized to do their bit. Victory Gardens were started in all school districts. Plants and seeds were distributed to the children for their gardens. There were community gardens for the youngster who could not have one in his backyard. Some reports follow and these I believe give one a clear picture of this activity.

### REPORT ON GARDEN WORK—1917

Enrollment at present date is as follows:

Sherman School (Home Gardens) .....	54
Sherman School (Community) .....	32
Lafayette School .....	23
Dwight School .....	25
Banks North School .....	15
Pequot School .....	75
Washington School .....	28
Silliman School .....	82
Lincoln School .....	31

365

This number will be somewhat increased as application cards are still coming in.



Demonstrations and lectures on the preparing of the seed bed, planting the gardens, and planting tomato plants have been distributed to the children.

With the exception of the Silliman School each child has been presented with a button and also a record book in which to keep a complete record of his or her garden.

Each child has received from the Fairfield County Farm Bureau two sets of Literature, the first on how and what to plant in a garden and a garden plan and secondly directions for transplanting, thinning and cultivating.

The four acre community plot in Fairfield has been staked out into plots, most of them seventy-five feet by seventy-five feet and the thirty-two boys assigned to their plots. There are about twenty-nine plots and in several cases two boys have one plot together. About two and one half acres of this four acre piece have been planted to potatoes which are now beginning to come up. Nearly one thousand cabbage plants have been planted and approximately five hundred tomato plants. Some of the boys have planted some seeds of their own choice and the rest of the ground will be planted to corn which we have on hand.

#### REPORT ON GARDEN WORK

##### Club Work

The following clubs have been formed in the various schools and officers for each have been elected by their respective members:

- Sherman School—Fairfield  
1. Sherman School Vegetable Club  
Gustave Erickson, President
2. Fairfield Dirt Diggers  
Linn Hetzel, President
- Lafayette School—Mill Plain  
3. Mill Plain Garden Club  
Lynn Ferris, President
- Pequot School—Southport  
4. Memorial Garden Club  
Ralph Garafalo, President
5. Pequot Garden Association  
John Jennings, President
6. Pequot Junior Gardeners  
Daniel Knox, President
- Dwight School—Greenfield Hill  
7. Greenfield Hill Home Garden Association  
Clarence Godfrey, President
- Lincoln School—Stratfield  
8. Lincoln Pioneers  
Victor Lukomske, President
- Washington School—Fairfield  
9. Washington Busy Bees  
Stanley Fowler, President

One more club is to be formed by the community boys at Sherman School, one more at Banks North and three more at Silliman School, making a total of fourteen clubs in eight schools.

T. B. Schmidt was the Garden Supervisor and he made weekly reports. Pig Clubs too were formed by the children. The Supervisor reported for June 16, 1917:

This week finished up the club organization

work with one exception — the Banks North School when it was difficult to form the club because of some of its members being located in another school (Dwight). This club will be formed next week when all members can be present. Much time has been spent with the community plot boys as the garden needed weeding badly and spraying seemed very necessary. By Saturday afternoon this plot was in very good condition. Mr. Johnson was here twice and visited gardens with me, on which he reported very favorably. He also visited several of the schools and talked of pig club work and we are looking forward to placing a few pigs in this section. Mr. Hollister was here on Friday and attended the canning demonstration held at Sherman School by the Fairfield Garden Club under the direction of Miss Green.

Next week being the last week of School will be devoted to Club meetings in order to arrange dates and places for meeting throughout the summer. Permission has been obtained to use the schools as meeting places as necessary.

The next week's report showed this addition:  
"Thirty children have filed notice to join a pig club."

June 28, 1918 had been declared War Savings Enlistment Day by First Selectman Rowe. There were Liberty Bond Rallies throughout Town. Posters advertising the rallies read in this fashion:

#### RALLY

at

Church at GREENFIELD HILL

October 5, 1918—8 P.M.

Rev. W. B. Lusk of Ridgefield will tell you of Greenfield boys he has seen and talked with in France.

Simon C. Bradley—Greenfield's favorite son will tell you why you ought to buy Liberty Bonds.

The Liberty Chorus of Greenfield will sing the songs you love best.

A RALLY in GREENFIELD is an OCCASION for SHOUTING.

Then there were benefit affairs as well. This one for the benefit of the Red Cross.

May 23, 1918

A large attendance is expected this evening at the rally to be held on Sherman School Green for the Red Cross when Sergeant Major McQueeney and Judge Elmore S. Banks will be the speakers. There will be music and the speech by the Canadian officer will be of the best. McQueeney was in the Battle of Vimy Ridge where so many of the Canadians were engaged with the Germans, and he has been wounded several times in action.

And another:

A FILM—3 REEL DRAMA

JOAN OF PLATTSBURG

Liberty Chorus will sing

Adm. 25¢



Proceeds to be devoted to the Red Cross  
Monday, May 13th  
In the Greenfield Hill Church

There is a picture of the Greenfield Hill Liberty Chorus in the picture section of this book.

From the Bridgeport Daily Standard American—Tuesday, April 23, 1918:

Greenfield Hill gave a stirring demonstration of patriotism last night in a meeting that broke all records for attendance and enthusiasm—and incidentally the demonstration took a practical side in the sale of many hundreds of dollars worth of Liberty Bonds.

The meeting took place in Greenfield Congregational Church whose white spire on top of the big hill is a landmark for so many miles around. At eight o'clock the church was filled with its record attendance. The gallery, the aisles, organ loft, and every other point of vantage, were jammed. For lack of seats, people crowded out in the lobby and looked in through the windows, and the green outside the Church, with the multitude of cars upon it, seemed like the parking space at one of the big football games.

Of course not all of this great attendance came from Greenfield Hill, for every town for miles around contributed its quota—but it was a meeting of which a sizeable city might be proud.

Hermann Hagedorn, Chairman of the Liberty Loan Committee, was the presiding genius and under his leadership, the meeting reached a high pitch of enthusiasm.

Among the speakers of the evening who stirred the audience with tales of the courage and heroism of the men of the Front, and appeals for patriotic support from those at home were Mrs. Marie Coverdale, who told of the work of the army huts in England, Judge John S. Pullman, who made a telling appeal for the Liberty loan, and finally, Private Douglas Drew, an invalided Canadian Soldier who was wounded at Vimy Ridge, where the American Flag last went "over the top" in the great war.

When Drew appeared on the dias in his khaki uniform, the assemblage jumped to its feet and gave him three rousing cheers. His story, while free from oratorical fireworks was startling and convincing and drove home the need for tireless cooperation on the part of every man, woman and child at home, that the men "over there" may be loyally supported in their heroic sacrifice.

The meeting was enlivened with the singing of patriotic songs by the Liberty Chorus of Greenfield Hill and one of the solemn features was the reading of the roll of honor—Greenfield Hill's sons who are serving their Country. One of them—Frederick Godfrey—has just been "gassed" by the Germans on the plains of Picardy. Another—Clayton Nichols—has died in camp. The honor roll included: John H. Banks, George P. Brett, Jr., Willard Bulkley, Timothy Fallon, Frederick Godfrey, Fred Hoyt, Preston Merwin, Clayton Nichols, Samuel Ogden and Samuel Prentice.

After the meeting there was a big sale of Liberty Bonds, and every purchaser was given a potted

geranium plant from the greenhouses of Frederick Sturges. The crowd moving away looked like an ambulatory flower show.

Cartoonist Bill Steinke of the Standard American was there and gave the audience a patriotic "Chalk Talk" and then sketched his impressions of the high spots. (Bill Steinke's "impressions" are included in the picture section of this book.)

There were Gasless Sundays when Old Dobbin once again came into his own. My Dad told of one such Sunday when John E. Boyle of the Pharmacy and Hezekiah R. Elwood, Constable for the Town, took chairs out into the middle of the Post Road and sat for awhile. The road was deserted on those days. There were also "Heatless Mondays" to conserve fuel.

All of those activities were under the direct leadership and supervision of the War Bureau as they were the only recognized body of the Town.

The Town Meeting gave them three hundred dollars in March 1918 to help them carry out their assignments.

#### *Town Meeting Minutes*

March 18, 1918

After explanation by the Chairman of the War Bureau, Bacon Wakeman; the following resolution was offered:

Resolved that the sum of three hundred dollars be and is hereby appropriated for the use of the War Bureau of the Town, to be paid to the War Bureau on the order of the Selectmen, upon requisition in writing signed by the Chairman of the Finance Committee of the War Bureau and by the Chairman of the War Bureau. The War Bureau shall render an itemized account to the Selectmen of all money so requisitioned.

Amendment:

Provided and only upon the agreement that the records of the War Bureau as soon as their activities end, shall be deposited in the Town vault as a part of the records of the Town.

The original resolution as amended passed.

Other references to the War which were in the Town Meeting records follow.

October 1918

Moved that a suitable honor roll be erected with the names of all soldiers and sailors in some suitable place and that such sum of money as may be necessary be appropriated.

It was moved that the sum of three hundred dollars previously appropriated or at present time not used for the use of the War Bureau be reappropriated.

June 2, 1920

Voted that a Committee consisting of Bacon Wakeman and the Selectmen be and they hereby are appointed to procure definite designs and estimates of cost for a bronze tablet in memory of the Town's dead in the World War, and present the



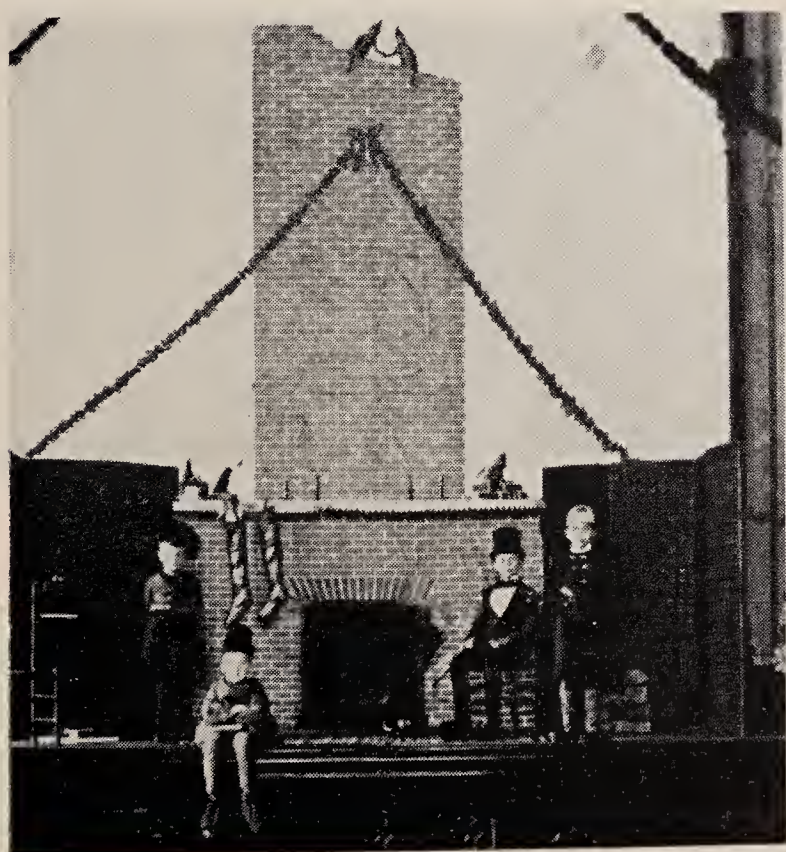


*Hope Chapel*



*Christmas Play 1894*

*Southport Congregational Church  
Richard A. Perry, sitting on chair  
Harry B. Disbrow, sitting on plat-  
form  
Richard S. Sherwood, Samuel C.  
Henshaw, standing.*



*Mill Plain Drum Corps*

*James Cavanaugh  
Fred Odell  
James Kieley  
Alec Hull  
Clinton Hull  
Harry Smith*

*Edward Murphy  
John Delaney  
Edward Flanagan  
Robert Allen*

*1897*





Map of Fairfield Center showing street names—at Fairfield Historical Society  
—about 1880





Greenfield Country Club fair  
The quarter mile racetrack and  
the grandstand at the Greenfield  
Country Club in 1903 were the  
envy of Newtown, Greens Farms  
and all of the surrounding dis-  
tricts and could well have been  
matched with the early days of  
Danbury Fair or the beginning  
of county fairs in New York  
state. The fair grew from a one  
day fair in 1901 to a four-day  
fair in 1906.

← David Armstrong drives tandem.



*Republican Clambake at Simeon Pease's—about 1912. Among those in the picture:*

Simeon Pease  
Joseph I. Flint  
Andrew B. Wakeman  
Judge John H. Perry  
William Wilson  
Morris Wilson  
Charles Lacey  
Judge Elmore S. Banks  
Frederick C. Banks

John C. Lobdell  
William Fallon  
Clitus H. King  
Alfred Whittaker  
Frank Warren  
Oliver H. Meeker  
Warner Ogden  
Benjamin F. Pease  
Perry Beers  
George McCarthy

David Osborn  
William H. Gould  
Rufus Jennings  
Bradley Jennings  
Henry Whittaker  
John Osborn  
Horace Burr  
Robert FitzRoy  
Herbert B. Sherwood  
Jesse Pratt

Alfred Wyrzten  
Frank E. Perry  
Clifford S. Banks  
Matthew Clark  
Henry Greenstien  
Henry Crawford  
George H. Smith  
Eugene Burr  
Edgar Banks



# Wow! Greenfield Hill Can Give the Cities Cards and Spades in Staging a Patriotic Meeting!







*First Hose Wagon  
Fairfield Hook and Ladder Co. #1*



*Liberty Chorus—Performance at the Greenfield Hill Country Club—World War I  
“Sylvia”—1917*

*First Row—l. to r. Harold Banks, Oliver Meeker, Royal Banks, Clarence Godfrey, Ted Fallon, Harvey Taylor, John Wade, Dr. M. V. B. Dunham, leader.*  
*Second Row—Ruby Jennings, Charlotte Hull, Beatrice Belden, Helen Pease, Beth Perry, Dorothy Banks, Olive Hull, Gretchen Barrett, Grace Burr, Ruth Van Ness, Dorothy Perry, Blanche Wade, Anna Gray, Ethel Merwin, Bessie Burr.*  
*Third Row—Estella Benedict, Mabel Smith, Dorothy Benedict, Elva Banks, Grace Daly, Jack Dunham, Etta Brothwell, Luella Burr, Lois Brothwell, Carl ———, Eleanor Smith, Alice Hill, Louisa Meeker, Georgia Banks.*



*Southport Firemen on Parade 1913. Rev. Richard D. Hatch—Trinity Church Rector marching at the head of the parade—“Judge” Russell, father of Ned Russell is at Mr. Hatch’s left.*





*Greenfield Hill  
Grange Fair  
September 1936*

*First Grange Hall  
Hillside Road  
Greenfield Hill  
1897*



*Mill River Bridge—1900  
—Boston Post Road.*



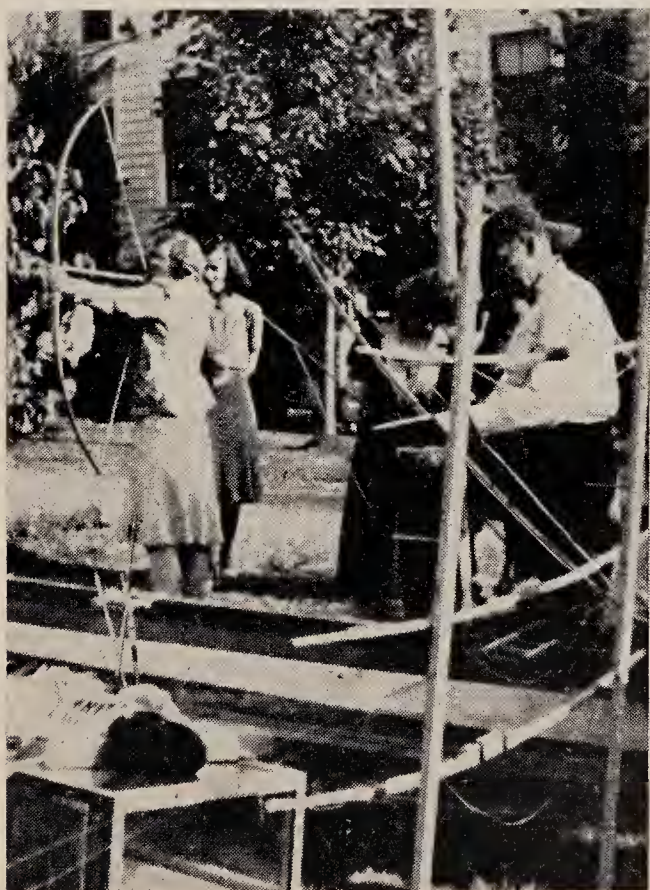


*Vegetable and Fruit Department  
Greenfield Hill Grange Fair—1941*

*left to right:*

*William A. Lanterman  
Judge Ned E. Ostmark  
George Zink  
Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Welch*

*Greenfield Hill Grange Fair  
September 1939  
“Hot Dogs, Ice Cream,  
Soda Pop”*



*Archery Booth—fun for all!  
Greenfield Hill Grange Fair  
September 1939*



*Mrs. Samuel H. Wheeler  
and  
Mrs. Henry C. Sturges  
in special dress for the Tercentenary Barbecue  
on the Town Green—1935*



*Fairfield Tercentenary Parade  
September 30, 1939  
The author in the ox cart as a bride  
of 1640. Fred Candee owner and driv-  
er of the oxen.*



*"Uncoway" by Henry Beale Spelman—a pageant given at Roger Lud-  
lowe High School by the students of Roger Ludlowe High School and the  
Fairfield Tercentenary Committee on October 3rd and 4th, 1935, as a  
part of town's celebration of the Connecticut Tercentenary.*

*L. to R.—Robert Dunning as Roger Ludlowe, Elizabeth Havey as Mrs.  
Roger Ludlowe, Ellwood McLevy as Chief Sequassen, Susan Treadwell as  
Mrs. Thomas Ludlowe, Stephen Homer as Captain John Mason.*



*Fairfield's Home Guard—1917*



same with their recommendation to the next annual meeting.

January 3, 1928

The following Resolution was offered:

Resolved:—That a committee of five be appointed by the Board of Selectmen, only two of which shall be ex-servicemen, which committee shall . . . and perfect The Honor Roll of the Soldiers and Sailors enlisted in the late World War, and shall make recommendations to the Town if deemed advisable, of a suitable permanent memorial to them.

Amendment to above resolution was passed as follows:

Resolved:—That the Town, recognizing with sincere gratitude and appreciation the services of Judge Wakeman in this particular matter, appoint as a Committee referred to in this motion himself with power to appoint four other citizens.

Meeting adjourned.

Clara M. Flint, Clerk

The following are appointed to correct and perfect the Honor Roll of the Soldiers and Sailors enlisted in the late World War and to consider the advisability of a suitable permanent memorial for them:

Bacon Wakeman  
John Taylor Arms  
Howard A. Smith  
LeGrand Sturges  
Richard A. Perry

At length November 11, 1918 and the signing of the Armistice was a reality. There were bonfires and the ringing of church bells and joy abounded. The bells never missed a stroke I'm told for two days after. As one grew weary from pulling the rope another stood right there ready to take his place and continue the rhythm.

There was a gala homecoming on November 8, 1919 for the four hundred and fifty returned heroes. The Town was dressed for a holiday as it welcomed the returning soldier and expressed sorrow for those who had given their lives. The celebration started with a parade from the Southport Water Fountain at four p.m. to Benson's Switch in Fairfield and then a countermarch to the Town Green. The streets were lined with thousands of people and each one wanted to personally welcome the returning men and women. At the Town Hall the gold starred flag—bearing twelve gold stars—was presented to the Town. From the Town Green the veterans marched to Sherman Hall where a bountiful repast of turkey and all the fixins' from cider to pumpkin pie was laid before the men among profuse decorations.

The Southport and Greenfield Hill Liberty

Choruses sang throughout the dinner hour. Dancing closed the evening.

A copy of the invitation is included here.

*Welcome Home Invitation*

To the Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Airmen who went from the Town of Fairfield, Connecticut, to serve in The Great War.

Greeting: Your neighbors and fellow citizens wish to do you honor. A WELCOME HOME has been arranged for Saturday afternoon and evening November 8, 1919. There will be a parade in the afternoon, in which you are asked to march in uniform. In the evening there will be a dinner followed by a dance, to both of which you and your lady are invited as guests of the Town of Fairfield. Detailed program will be sent you later. Please reply at once on the enclosed card in order that the Committee may know for how many to provide.

The Welcome Home Committee

An oak tree was planted on the Town Green as a symbol of appreciation to the men who served their Country on May 2, 1919 by the Eunice Dennie Burr Chapter of the D. A. R.

Twelve men from Fairfield gave their lives during the War. They were:

Henry S. Sherwood  
Frank K. Snyder  
David Thompson  
William Combes Taylor  
William Tirnady  
David R. Wilson  
Bronson Hawley  
Clayton W. Nichols  
Joseph L. Kielar  
John Buechler  
Leonard Davis  
George Alfred Smith

The headlines from the Bridgeport Post and Bridgeport Telegram give a good picture of the activity of the time.

HEADLINES: 1917 BRIDGEPORT POST AND  
BRIDGEPORT TELEGRAM

"Red Cross Drive in Old Fairfield Best in County  
\$8000 Quota—\$17,438 Subscribed"  
"Fairfield has quiet Fourth, Home Guard in Parade"  
"Fairfield High School Displays its Patriotism—  
Pupils Subscribe \$100 for Liberty Loan Bond"  
"Fairfield Boys in France"  
"War Bureau to Make Up List of Service Men"  
"Heatless Monday"  
"Food Demonstration"  
"Company M Gets Praise for Fine Military Work  
—Major General Burpee Sends It Personally and  
Colonel Cowles Also Lauds"  
"War Rally and Parade"  
"Potato Campaign"  
"War Bureau to Give Sanction for Benefits—Regulation Affecting Public Entertainments and Subscriptions Is Passed"



"Red Cross Gets Good Start in Fairfield Town"  
 "Would Instruct Drafted Men in Leave Taking—  
 Fairfield Red Cross Believes They Should Close  
 Personal Business Affairs Properly"  
 "Register Tomorrow" (Those who have become 21  
 since June 5th last)  
 "Another Fairfield Hero"  
 "Mayor Rowe in Plea Calls for War Savings Stamp  
 Buyers—First Selectmen of Fairfield Asks Peo-  
 ple to Support Small U. S. Loans"  
 "1848 Pledge War Stamp Drive Total \$21,851"  
 "War Rally Success"  
 "Fairfield Opens Canning Kitchen at Sherman  
 School"  
 "Canning Kitchen at Fairfield is Most Successful—  
 Over 1000 Jars Have Been Canned at Center—  
 Many Donations Made"  
 "School Garden Exhibition at Sherman School—  
 Under Auspices of National Defense—Exhibits  
 Must Be in Friday, September 13th"  
 "Fairfield School Gardens Produce Bumper Crop"  
 "End of Gasless Sundays"  
 "Fairfield Is 'Over The Top' in 5th Loan"  
 "Fairfield Makes Holiday to Honor 450 War Heroes  
 —Town Folks Cheer Men Who Fought"

It is amazing to see as the records show the even keel that was kept about the Town as these emergencies surrounded it. One could easily say that business at home went on as usual during all of these trying experiences. Perhaps in lesser degree but not once over the many years of the Town's existence has there been evidence of lack of continued progress which certainly stands Fairfield citizens in noble stead. A real challenge for those of us who remain here today.

In 1919 the thought of remodelling the Town Hall was being pressed and in May 1920 Eastern Standard Time was made the official time for the Town of Fairfield. The extermination of mosquitoes was a regular item in the budget. There was still hope of getting the trolley fare reduced to five cents again like "the good old days"—especially within the limits of Fairfield and steps were being taken to regain possession of the Fairfield Academy. More hydrants and street lights were a must!

On June 2, 1920, a second voting district was established to include the eastern section of Town. The vote taken was that:

That a voting district be and the same hereby is created to be known as District Number 2, consisting of all that part of the Town of Fairfield, bounded east and south by the City of Bridgeport, north by the Town of Easton, west by a line drawn through the center of the Black Rock Turnpike from the Easton Town line to the City of Bridgeport line, and the Selectmen are hereby directed to provide proper voting facilities in such location in the said district as may seem to them best, to

publish notice of the location of same at least thirty days prior to the next annual Town meeting.

On August 20, 1920, the right for women to vote in National and State elections became legal and Fairfield women had been very active in this cause—both for and against suffrage. There was an extremely active group who were working hard to defeat the privilege of women voting while an equally active group in Town was doing everything possible to obtain this right. Two announcements which I found at Pequot Library read as follows. This group was in favor.

VOTES FOR WOMEN  
 MEETING  
 FAIRFIELD LIBRARY HALL  
 Monday, February 22nd, 8 p.m.

*Chairman*

Mrs. Samuel H. Wheeler

*Speakers*

Mrs. Thomas N. Hepburn  
Hartford

Mrs. Carlos F. Stoddard  
New Haven

ADMISSION FREE

Suffrage Souvenirs and Literature will be on sale

This group opposed:

REASONS FOR OUR PROTEST AGAINST THE  
 PROPOSAL TO IMPOSE FURTHER SUFFRAGE  
 UPON THE WOMEN IN THIS STATE

1. Because voting by women is to be regarded as a duty, not as a privilege.
2. Because hitherto, the women of this State have been free from this duty, except in connection with School questions (where it is practically never exercised) and no sufficient reason has been given for imposing it upon them.
3. Because conferring the power to vote at the request of the minority who ask for it, would force it upon the silent majority, who regard it neither as a privilege to be sought after, nor a duty to be unnecessarily assumed.
4. Because we believe the need of America is not an increased vote, but a more intelligent and incorrupt one; and there is no reason to believe that universal Women Suffrage would help in this direction.
5. Because the energies of women are sufficiently taxed by their present duties and interests from which they cannot be adequately relieved.
6. Because the responsibilities imposed by the ballot will tend to deprive women of the special rights and privileges hitherto enjoyed by them.
7. Because voting ultimately involves the holding of public office, the performance of jury duty, and many other public tasks which would be inconsistent with the discharge of those duties which women now prefer; and believe to belong to a higher sphere.

Fairfield Branch of the Connecticut League  
 Opposed to Women Suffrage



Miss A. B. Jennings, Chairman  
 Mrs. Wm. B. Glover, Sec. Miss Bessie L. Child, Treas.  
 Mrs. John H. Perry Mrs. Elmore S. Banks  
 Mrs. Valery Havard Miss Helen Le. R. Glover

After having read the enclosed circular, will you kindly state what are your views on the subject of 'Votes for Women' by signing your name below, under the class to which you belong, and return same in enclosed envelope.

I am OPPOSED to votes for women  
 .....  
 I am in favor of votes for women  
 .....  
 I have not made up my mind  
 .....  
 I am Indifferent  
 .....

Miss A. B. Jennings, Chairman  
 Mrs. Wm. B. Glover, Secretary

July 1, 1922, the Fairfield News came to the people and some of the headlines of those first issues were:

- "Shoot \$2000 in Colors Out Over Harbor—Public Invited by Pequot Yacht Club to Fireworks Display on Saturday"
- "Greenfield Hill Country Club Opens Its Doors to Greenfield Hill Youth"
- "Before You Tour Look At Your Battery"
- "Popular Bathing Girl Contest—Shirley O'Conner—Nine Year Old Miss Is Acclaimed Most Popular Girl At Beach"
- "Over Eight Hundred Dogs Are Licensed"
- "Aluminum Company of America Leases Aluminum Casting Company for Twenty-Five Years—Effective July 1, 1922"
- "Sewer System Needed"
- "Porches from High School Taken to Beach—Used As A Dock"
- "Need for Lights at Pine Creek—Poles Already in Place"
- "Five classes to Be Taught at St. Thomas School in Fall"

*August 26, 1922*

A quantity of counterfeit silver half dollars are reported to be in circulation in Fairfield . . . One person was held up for several minutes on a west bound trolley yesterday while the conductor literally bit a piece out of the silver coin tendered for fare.

The trolley fare now had reached ten cents and there was loud agitation for an immediate reduction.

An addition was proposed for the High School to avoid a two-session day. Sidewalks were planned for Fairfield Center and expenses were voted toward the Juvenile Court.

On November 13, 1922, in town meeting a vote was taken to the effect "That the taxes of any taxpayer of the Town which are paid in whole

or in part before they are due shall be abated to the extent and at the rate of three percent per annum on the amount so paid for the time between its payment and the date when it would be due".

In 1923 two portables were used at the High School, a safety zone was planned in front of the Community Theatre and the Fairfield Garden Club was given permission to plant shrubbery around the public fountain. The next year the Garden Club was asked to nominate the Tree Warden of the Town. A license was required that year for the selling of milk.

New sirens were ordered to be installed in perfect condition at headquarters of the Fairfield, Southport, and Stratfield firehouses and lengths of hose were purchased for all four Companies. The use of the Old Academy was given "To the Fairfield Historical Society and the Eunice Dennie Burr Chapter of the D.A.R. for as long as they exist". A concrete roadway was also voted for Fairfield Center.

Sewage was a big issue in 1926 for it was feared that Bridgeport was going to dump sewage into Ash Creek.

Sidewalks were still a burning need and it was voted that all peddlers had to be licensed.

In 1927 the trolleys were again in the news as there was considerable opposition to moving the trolley tracks from their present location—"as the interests of the Town and the convenience of its inhabitants will be best served by their remaining in their present location". The Building Code was revised that same year and the question of whether or not the Town should take over the Fire Protection for the Town was pursued. A complete report of the Committee appointed to investigate the advisability of this move was made at the Town Meeting on November 3, 1927, and the recommendation was made that the "Town assume the obligation and expense of the fire protection of the property of the citizens". The following spring—April 10, 1928, a Fire Commission was established.

On July 16, 1929, the Town accepted a gift—the land and building, then owned by George A. Smith, Post #74 of the American Legion—to be used "as a memorial to the soldiers and sailors who died in the Great War".

It was also planned to rent voting machines for the election in that fall and the Sewer Survey was placed on file.

A Committee made up of A. V. Bodine, Miss Annie B. Jennings, Hezekiah R. Elwood, Miss



Virginia B. Perry, William P. Hutchinson, Frederick Sturges, Bradford G. Warner was appointed to plan for the remodelling and the enlarging of the Town Hall.

In January of 1931 it was voted to prohibit fireworks within the limits of the Town. Traffic lights were planned for the Post Road and there were expressions of need for a Master Plan in Fairfield.

Those were Depression days with their accompanying unemployment and costs were cut in the operations of the Town in every way possible.

On May 15, 1933, a committee was appointed to study the possibility of reorganization of the Town to make its workings more efficient.

The next year Miss Jennings gave the beach adjoining her property to the Town for its use and a new Post Office building was planned.

In February, 1935, there were six proposals made at the Town Meeting, all of which are very much a part of us today. Action was taken on all of them. The six proposals follow:

1. To create a central purchasing department
2. To create biennial Town elections (laid on the table)
3. To create a Representative Town Meeting (withdrawn)
4. To do away with the filing of tax lists and the ten percent penalty
5. To change the fiscal year and authorize a bond issue
6. To regulate hunting and shooting (laid on the table)

One sees again and gain the farsightedness of the Town. Often it took a good while to get the point established but at least the seed was planted early which shows thinking throughout the three hundred and one years recorded here.

1935 was the tercentenary year of The State of Connecticut and about that time Mrs. Hugh D. Auchincloss offered the Town thirty thousand dollars toward the remodelling and refurnishing of the Town Hall and the Committee accepted the offer willingly, for through the refurbishing, something of permanence would mark the historic year for the State and Town.

Many other activities were carried out as a part of the celebration. The Ogden House at the entrance to Oaklawn Cemetery, just off Bronson Road and owned by Miss Mary Allis, was repaired, furnished, and opened to visitors during the summer months. The Old Academy was opened with an exhibition of china, pewter, glassware, and utensils of the Colonial period. A tercentenary booklet—a guide book—was issued by the Town and on June 13, 1935, a large

public meeting was held with Professor Henry Fairfield Osborn, internationally known scientist, and Noah H. Swayne, member of the General Assembly, as speakers. Twenty-five historical sites were permanently marked. There was also an information booth on the Post Road during the months of July and August. Memorial Day and Independence Day were observed with great enthusiasm.

On Saturday, September 28th, a gala parade starting in Southport Center and continuing to the Town Green was the order of the day. A steer was barbecued by George R. Godfrey and more than one thousand dined on the Green. Dancing followed the barbecue. The celebration closed with performances of "Uncoway", a Tercentenary Pageant given at Roger Ludlowe High School by over three hundred members of the student body, written by Henry Beale Spelman and coached by the High School faculty. It had been another fitting and memorable observance for Fairfield.

The Official Seal of the Town was adopted at that time.

In 1937 the Town planned to operate a Small Claims Court and there were further pleas made for some sort of Representative Town Meeting. It was said that of "the seventy-five hundred voters only fifteen hundred can get into an auditorium".

1939 marked the 300th birthday of the Town and festivities were gay and numerous.

The Fairfield Tercentenary Committee commenced work early in 1938, in preparation for the coming year which marked the three hundredth anniversary of the Town's founding. The program was arranged to include a series of events which would review the three centuries of Fairfield's existence for her sons and daughters of 1939. Fairfield's Tercentenary observance was a municipal celebration in the true sense of the word. All of her citizens participated; from the smallest school child who took part in the historic pageant to the oldest inhabitant who attended it, and the various other functions; from descendants of the immigrants of three hundred years ago who compiled genealogical charts for future generations, to the newer immigrants who donned the costumes of their native lands to dance on the Green on Fairfield Day on September 30th.

The events of the celebration started with an early American Coin exhibit held at the Fair-



field Historical Society from March 25th to March 30th. An exhibit of samplers followed again at the Society's rooms April 10th to April 24th. On the evening of June 20th "Our Story", a pageant written by Henry Beale Spelman, was presented by the elementary school children of Fairfield at Gould Manor Park. The theme depicted Fairfield during the years 1639-1939 in ten episodes.

	Episode I	
The Pequot War		Pequot School
	Episode II	
A Town Meeting: A Witchcraft Trial		Stratfield School
	Episode III	
The Story of Nathan Hale		Nathan Hale School
	Episode IV	
Washington's Visits to Fairfield		Washington School
	Episode V	
General and Mrs. Silliman		Holland Hill School
	Episode VI	
Timothy Dwight		Dwight School
	Episode VII	
Roger Sherman		Sherman School
	Episode VIII	
Abraham Lincoln		Lincoln School
	Episode IX	
William McKinley		McKinley School
	Episode X	
World War Volunteer Organization		Grasmere School

An Exhibit of Fans was held at the Historical Society August 8th to August 24th. An Information Booth was erected on the Roger Minott Sherman School Green for July, August, and September. There was an Educational Exhibit at the Roger Minott Sherman School during August, September, and the first part of October. This was a collection of the handiwork of the Elementary School children. On September 7th, 8th, and 9th an Arts and Crafts Exhibit was held at the Greenfield Hill Grange Hall as a part of the annual Grange Fair. Early Fairfield furniture, clocks, candlesticks, glass, quilts, rugs, books, etc., were all on display.

From September 11th to September 22nd there was an exhibit of American Sporting Prints and Early American Books on Sporting Subjects at the Historical Society. From September 25th to October 7th there was an exhibit at the Historical Society of Ecclesiastical Silver and Pewter of all the parishes which once were part of Fairfield.

Churches in Fairfield and in sections which were originally part of Fairfield which were founded prior to 1800 and loaned exhibit pieces were:

First Church of Christ	Fairfield
United Church	Bridgeport
Congregational Church	Greenfield Hill
Congregational Church	Greens Farms
Federated Church	Redding
Congregational Church	Weston
Congregational Church	Easton
Congregational Church	Saugatuck
Trinity Episcopal Church	Southport
Christ Episcopal Church	Easton

Tercentenary Week was marked from September 24th to October 1st and events were planned for every day that week. On Sunday, September 24th, there was a Union Religion Service at 3:30 p.m. in Roger Ludlowe High School.

The dedication of the Memorial Tablet to Roger Ludlowe in the small park at the northwest corner of the Post Road and Benson Road originally the northerly end of the "home lott" of Ludlowe took place on Thursday, September 28th.

There was an Open House at the Gould Homestead on Tuesday, September 26th, another at the Old Academy on Thursday, September 28th, and still others at the Hobart House and at the Sun Tavern on Friday, September 29th.

This date marked Fairfield Day and a great celebration took place on the south terrace of the Town Hall Green. His Excellency Governor Raymond E. Baldwin was the guest speaker of the day as was Honorable Charles Seymour, then President of Yale University.

On Saturday, September 30th, the Great Tercentenary Parade took place and all groups turned out to honor Fairfield's past as it had never been honored before. The afternoon ended with folk dancing on the Green. It was truly a fine day for Fairfield.

Individual Church observances concluded the week long celebration.

That same year a Town incinerator off Reef Road was planned and the fiscal year was set for July 1st to June 30th. The beaches were restricted henceforth to Fairfield residents only and the Redding Road entrance to the Merritt Parkway was again proposed.

We have reached the year 1940 in the Town's history and here we shall pause. What a rich and rewarding experience this has been—rolling back the curtain of the past and opening so many doors to have a look within. Such a solid past has been Fairfield's—so organized, so direct, and so steady. A challenge for us. May it ever be thus.



## CHAPTER 10

### GOVERNMENT OF FAIRFIELD TO 1940

Starting with the early records that are available, we find that Fairfield was an organized community at the very outset of its existence. That organization was based upon a pure and simple democracy.

There were a few rules for all and the rights of the individual and of the group were recognized and respected. This same commandment is felt as the records go on. The machinery established at the beginning has been continued on through the years and only changed slightly and adjusted to the times even to the present day. Our forefathers founded strongly and well and we have much to challenge our thoughts and actions today to keep our direction as effective and orderly. This section deals with new town government positions and modes and manners as they were needed and developed over the years. As these appeared in the sequence of years, they are recorded.

When Roger Ludlowe returned to Hartford and the first General Court session following his transgression in being absent for several meetings, the Father of Connecticut Jurisprudence, together with several others, presented these laws for all plantations within Connecticut:

1. that all towns within the jurisdiction should each have power to dispose of their own undisposed lands as well as all other commodities arising out of their own limits bounded out by the court, the liberties of the great rivers excepted
2. To choose their own officers
3. To impose penalties for any breach of the law
4. To escheat and levy the same, and for non-payment to distrain either by seizing upon personal estate or to sell their houses or lands.
5. To choose 3, 5 or 7 once every year of their chief inhabitants, one of whom should be chosen moderator, who should have a casting voice, in case there should be an equal number of votes; which said persons should meet together every two months, to hear and determine all controversies either by trespass or debts not exceeding 40 Shillings, provided both parties lived in the same town; and that any two of them should summon parties to appear before their court to answer an action; to administer the oath to wit-

nesses and to give judgment and execution against offending parties. In case of dissatisfaction, the aggrieved parties were given power to appeal to a higher court.

This was the base upon which our Town had its beginning.

It was further ordered that each town have a ledger book and each man's land be registered within the immediate three months. The laws just listed had to be read in a public meeting at least once each year by the constable as a reminder to all. The constable was the strong arm of the law and the king's own embodiment. As soon as the town had a constable, the town became a valid corporation, subject to taxation and entitled to representation. At all public affairs, the King's representative—the constable—would appear before the court with his long pole which was surmounted by the emblem of royalty of the British. Even for many years after the Revolution, the American Eagle topped his pole at all public occasions.<sup>1</sup>

In addition to the General Court which met either in Hartford or New Haven, there was a court of election, the justice's court and another court which was made up of the deputies or representatives of the General Court who decided judicial and civil actions, debts and trespasses of more than 40 shillings—about \$5, the limit of the local town's ruling body.

Thus Fairfield began. A few simple rules and respect for them. The first Town Meeting records available show that the following officers were chosen for 1661, 22 years after the Town's beginning—

The Towne hath chosen for the year ensuing Mr. Gold, William Hill, Jehu Burr, Alex Knowles, John

<sup>1</sup> The Rulers of England who had Fairfield under their control:

Charles I . . .	1625-1649
Cromwell . . .	1649-1660
Charles II . . .	1660-1685
James II . . .	1685-1688
William and Mary	1688-1702
Anne . . . . .	1702-1714
George I . . . .	1714-1725
George II . . . .	1725-1760
George III . . . .	1760-1783



Burr, William Ward, John Banks for Townsmen, Nathan Seeley is chosen Marshall, William Hill is chosen Recorder.

The Townsmen were the governing body—the early selectmen and there were initially seven in all. Nathan Seeley—the Marshall was the Constable—the representative of the law.

Committees soon were chosen to carry out the will of the governing group.

William Ward and William Hill are to agree in the behalf of the Towne with some persons to beat the drum for the meetings, Sabbath and election dayes.

They had drawn lots for a dividend of land and chosen were:

John Burr and John Banks to lay out every man's proportions.

and

The Surveyors for the year ensuing for the east field are Nathan Seeley and Sergeant Squire and they are to have 2 shillings 6 pence a time a piece. John and Joshua Knowles for the west field and they are to have 2s 6p a piece a time. Ed Wilson is chosen to work about the meeting house he warded last year and care and chimnies, that he is to cut the Town's grass, may let him have some a piece of grass as an addition to his wages (for pasture probably).

Whereas the said Edward was to repair to Obed Gilbert and Henry Rowland to judge of defective chimnies that the said persons shall not attend the work, the said Edward is to repair to two of the Townsmen and if they judge the chimnies defective, the penalties by vote of a former order shall be levied on the delinquent.

The "Rate" (taxes) had to be gathered within 10 days and John Burr and Thomas Lyon were chosen Rate Gatherers—Tax Collectors.

Thomas Lyon to give the Towne warning to bring in their rates to John Burr and John Burr is to make the Account up with men and if it be not gathered within ten days the marshall is to levy on it.

Thomas Sherwood was chosen Miller for the Towne and John Hoit and John Knowles were chosen Fence Viewers for the west fields and Sergeant Squire and Nathan Burr—Fence Viewers for the east fields with the directive that they were to view the fences every two months. Sergeant Squire was also chosen pounder.

In 1662 Mr. Gold, Jehu Burr, John Burr, William Ward, John Banks, Cornelius Hull and William Hill were chosen Townsmen. William Hill continued as Secretary and Sergeant Seeley as Marshall. William Ward was chosen constable. Cornelius Hull, Robert Turney and Nathaniel Burr were chosen Selectmen and Cornel-

ius Hull was made a Commissioner. Nathan Gold was chosen a Magistrate of the General Court in Hartford, and Jehu Burr and John Banks Deputies. Thomas Pell and Alexander Knowles were made assistants of the particular court and if either declined to act, William Hill was to serve.

Thomas Staples and Henry Lyon were to be Sheepmasters for the summer ensuing and John Burr was to gather Mr. Wakeman's Rate (the teacher) and Henry Lyon was to gather Mr. Jones' Rate (the minister). John Banks was to be Sealer of Weights and Measures and John Burr was chosen Treasurer.

One sees that as new challenges met these people, they developed new officers or committees to carry out the responsibilities.

In 1663 Cornelius Hull and William Ward were appointed to call out help to burn the woods. As the "help" burned the woods, they were directed by these two men and also to be especially careful of the fences in seeing that they were not burned up. That same year three sheepmasters were appointed for the summer instead of the customary two of the preceding years. The Town was growing.

It was further decided that the freemen (the voters) would be fined for absence from Town Meetings if they had been "warned" to be there.

Steven Sherwood was chosen to beat the drum upon the Sabbath days, Election days and Towne Meeting days and in addition "to cause the meeting house to be swept and the dogs kept out"—this latter part being a new assignment from that of his predecessor.

Not only were they fined for not attending the Town Meetings but they were also fined 3 pence if they spoke without permission in Town Meetings.

There were two Town Meetings a year, one on the 15th of February and the other on the 15th of August and should they fall on the Sabbath either time, they were to be held the second day following. The Townsmen were allowed to call other meetings provided they were "published" (announced) on a Lecture Day or by "a writing nailed on the meeting house door".

In 1668 two constables were selected rather than one and were asked to have charge of seeing that the children of a sick person were cared for. This year, as in other years, the Freeman's Oath was given to those who fulfilled the qualifications. It was necessary to be 21 years of age, of peaceable, orderly and good conversation, and owning estates to the value of 40 shillings, in



order to become a Freeman. The person was then eligible to take the Freeman's Oath which was administered as follows:

I (NAME) being by the providence of God an Inhabitant within the jurisdiction of Connecticut, do acknowledge myself to be subject to the Government thereof, and do swear by the great and fearful name of the everliving God, to be true and faithful unto the same, and do submit both my person and estate thereunto, according to all the wholesome laws and orders that there are, or hereafter shall be there made, and established by lawful authority, and that I will neither plot nor practise any evil against the same, nor consent to any that shall so do, but will timely discover the same to lawful authority there established: and that I will, as I am in duty bound, maintain the honor of the same and of the lawful magistrates thereof, promoting the public good of that, whilst I shall so continue an Inhabitant there; and whensoever I shall give my vote or suffrage touching any matter which concerns this Commonwealth being called thereunto, will give that as in my conscience I shall judge, may conduce to the best good of the same, without respect of persons or favor of any man. So help me God, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Elector's Oath taken by all new voters today is also included here:

*Town of Fairfield, Connecticut*  
Elector's Oath

You solemnly swear that you will be true and faithful to the State of Connecticut, and the Constitution and government thereof, as a free and independent state, and to the constitution of the United States; and whenever you shall be called to give your vote or suffrage touching any matter that concerns this state or the United States, you will give it as you shall judge will conduce to the best good of the same, without respect of persons or favor of any man; so help you God.

Townsmen elected in the year 1668 were Mr. Gold, William Hill, Jehu Burr, Humphrey Hide, John Wheeler, Henry Rowland, Nathan Seeley—still seven.

In 1683 the General Assembly ordered that every town should erect a sign post in the center of town. The Fairfield sign post was placed upon the Green directly opposite the Meeting House and on it were posted proclamations, sales of houses and lands, meeting announcements, etc.

Some notices which appeared on this Sign Post on the Town Green are included here. Original notices have been kept and are preserved in the Pequot Library, the State Library in Hartford, etc.

The Post was really the center of communication for Fairfield. Auctions or Vendues as they were called, were often held right at the Sign Post for it was always a gathering place. Several

advertisements which appeared in the papers announcing these are also included here.

Notice from Sign Post:

This is to warn the Inhabitants of this Town, that next Tuesday the 15th day instant September is Freeman's Meeting about at 9 o'clock A.M. in the usual place.

Sept. Ye 12th A.D. 1772

also another:

This is to warn the Inhabitants of this Town that next Tuesday is Freeman's Meeting

A list of the Town officers to be chosen was also posted on the Sign Post.

Two other notices:

Fairfield November Ye 20, 1771

Taken by Execution one Cart and iron bound wheels which are to be sold at the Sign Post in Fairfield at Outcry on Monday the 9th day of December at h of the clock in the afternoon as the law directs.

December 12, 1772—Fairfield

Taken by execution one great coat, one straight bodied coat, one gun, one Great Bible which are to be sold at an outcry on Monday 7th day of January next at the Sign Post in Fairfield at h of the clock in the afternoon as the law directs.

At that time the Town Meetings were planned by the sun for one reads where "meeting adjourned until Thursday next, the sun at an hour high at night". Another time "the Towne Meeting is adjourned to the next second day—the sun an hour high in the morning."

The attendance was very sparse at one of the meetings because everyone was busy shearing sheep and another poor attendance was blamed on the extremely cold weather.

On December 29, 1774 they met at 9 a.m. but because there were so few in attendance at such an early hour, they adjourned for an hour and a half and then reconvened.

In 1671, John Banks was appointed "Attur-nie" to represent the Towne whenever its status was in question and Goodman Osborn was chosen a "Fence Viewer for the year ensuing as reserve in the absence of John Sturges".

In 1672 it was voted to collect the special Rate (tax) set for repair of the Meeting House along with the Towne Rate "speedily" and that "one fourth part of the whole Rate shall be payed in wheat, the rest in current pay".

Two years later Goodman Try and Daniel Frost were chosen Sealers for Leather. Leather Sealers were allowed 18 shillings for every dicker of sealed leather, 18 pence for half a dicker and 4 pence for a single hide. A dicker is ten.



The law which prohibited the importation of skins, used so largely for deer skins was repealed in 1681 with the proviso that if anyone within a month before transportation, gave notice at a town meeting or by a "writing" fastened upon the tavern or mill door, and should he find a purchaser for his skins in town or in the colony at 6 pence per pound, in either wheat or money, he should not send the skins out of the colony, under forfeiture of the full value of as many skins shipped as the purchaser desired.

On February 16, 1673 Richard Lyon was chosen highway warden for the east end of the Towne and Francis Bradley for the west end of Towne. John Green was appointed to burn Compo Woods.

In 1674 Lieutenant John Banks, Joseph Lockwood and Richard Hubbell were chosen Selectmen to take the list of estates.

In 1676 William Hill was called the Town Clerk for the first time. He had previously been called a secretary and a recorder. The following year, George Squire was chosen Moderator for a meeting.

Their rigidity on attendance continued for in 1677 it was voted that "the Town orders that who ever shall not personally appear at the time appointed to every future Towne Meeting except they can render a satisfying reason to the contrary to the satisfaction of the Townsmen: or shall depart from the meeting without leave till the meeting be broken up: shall for his fault there in be fined six pence a piece to be annexed to their Town Rates".

Robert Rumsey was also appointed "to oversee the boys on the Sabbath in the gallery that they carry it orderly".

On the 10th of August 1677, a moderator for each meeting became mandatory when it was voted that:

The Towne orders that for future Towne meetings: at the time appointed for the meeting the drum shall be beaten about the space of half an hour and such Inhabitants shall come to the meeting shall be esteemed the Towne to proceed in any Towne acts: and every such meeting they are first to choose a moderator for the present meeting: whoever is disorderly at the said meeting by speaking without leave or otherwise disorderly: each so offending shall forfeit three pence a piece to be annexed to his Towne Rate.

In 1681 an account system was set up by the Towne and Henry Rowland was chosen "Clerk of the Market for wheat and other grain".

In 1686 "The Towne this day ordereth ye Constables of ye Towne upon Sabbath days in time of exercises take notes who they are lying or sleeping or playing and inform those with whom they are concerned that they may reform from such evil practice".

In the 1690's it was decided to ring the bell every night but Saturday night and the one who rang the bell, swept the Meeting House, worked "after keeping the glass and keeping the doors shut" was to have 4 lbs. 10 shilling for his service. The condition of the roads were ever a concern.

In 1702 Daniel Burr, Sr. and Moses Dimon were chosen surveyors. The prosperity of the community depended a great deal on the condition of the roads. The surveyors were charged with the responsibility of making and mending roads. The roads were cut right through the woods of course.

It had been previously been voted:

The Townesmen do desire and appoint Sergeant John Osborn be now going to Boston, he is desired to purchase a good land compass and take ye best advice he can in it, and cause it to be carefully bought and he shall be paid by ye Towne what is reasonable . . . and he shall be paid out of ye Sheep Treasury—a piece of Town equipment.

Helping "Work the roads" was a must for all and as the years went on, this duty was turned into a source of income for many. In the 1720's the record shows that "Moses Dimon and sons were excused from working on the highways as long as they maintain a good cart bridge over the Aspetuck River". The highways on the long lots were 20 rods wide but this was reduced to 6 rods in 1746. Six rods on the east of the Mile of Common and six rods on the west of the Mile of Common.

In 1764, the Selectmen were to set out to each surveyor of Highways and certain districts for their mending the highways. Joseph Strong, Zacr. Morehouse and Benoni Dimon were chosen surveyors of highways for 1768.

As the officers were chosen each year, they were expected to serve. In 1702 the Towne Meeting voted:

The Towne grants the fines due to ye Towne Treasury for any person for refusing to serve in the Offices they are chosen to serve in.

By 1712 there was just one Fence Viewer chosen, the Selectmen were named regularly and a Tavern Keeper was chosen. Grand Jurors were selected in 1719 and a Tything Man was listed with the Towne officers and a Cooper also be-



came a regularly chosen officer. A Brander was chosen regularly then too.

In 1744 the Selectmen had liberty to purchase a Colony Lawbook for their use.

By 1746 the 7 Townesmen were now Selectmen and 2 Grand Jury men were selected a few years later. Jonathan Bulkley was chosen as Gager of Casks.

In 1753 twenty Jurymen were to be chosen from Fairfield annually in January. Each Jurymen had to have at least 50 shillings and be rated as a freeholder in the General List.

The names of the Jurymen so chosen shall be put in a box with a lock and when any number of Jurymen are summoned to serve at any Court, the Town Constable shall at random draw so many out of the box as is required from that Town, any juror so drawn but not appearing at the Court, penalty 10 shillings.

In 1759 the tasks of the Sealer of Weights and the Sealer of Measures became divided and the posts were assumed by two individuals.

Elections were held at the December Town Meeting.

Up until that point, there had been just one Collector of the Towne Rate.

In 1770 the following Collectors of the Towne Rate were chosen:

Thaddeus Bennett	.....Stratfield Parish Society
Jonathan Silliman	.....First Parish Society
William Wakeman	.....Greenfield Parish Society
David Adams	.....Norfield Parish Society
Azariah Odell	.....Parish of North Fairfield

Each collector of Town Rate in the Societies was given 40 shillings for their services. Three years later, Jonathan Silliman, Richard Hubbell, Jr., Daniel Sherwood 2nd, Simon Couch, Jonathan Squire, Azariah Odell were chosen Collectors and each was to have 40 shillings—about \$5.00 for his services except Richard Hubbell, Jr., and he was to receive only 20 shillings. There they had added one more Collector.

In 1777 Assessors were appointed for the first time and a Collector of the State Tax was also appointed.

The Rate in 1780 was payable in produce— $\frac{1}{2}$  in pork and beef and the other half in flour.

2500 pounds was voted from the Town Treasury for repairing and mending bridges.

In 1786 Chimney Viewers were added to the Officer's List officially. Fire was an ever present worry and the inhabitants were ordered to sweep their chimneys once in two weeks and in summer once each month. The Chimney Viewers were appointed to enforce this ordinance.

Cattle Haywards<sup>1</sup> had been mentioned again and again but in the late 1700's Hog Haywards were also mentioned.

In 1795 the Selectmen were given power to sell the Towne House and to remove it.

By 1800 Fairfield had six constables and the payment of taxes was clearly defined.

Before 1800 taxes had been collected in rather an easy-going way. Collectors kept Rate Books and did the best they could to get all of the money in. Working on the roads became a very popular way of taking care of one's taxes. On December 24, 1800 the regulations for valid tax payments were arrived at and set down for all to follow.

1. The Collector was to be paid out of the Tax collected.
2. The Selectmen were to appoint in each Society an agent or agents to repair said roads and bridges—the agents were to examine the bridges from time to time and an amount of money would be allotted to them.
3. The Selectmen were to decide the roads that shall have the money spent upon them.
4. The agents to be compensated from the Tax money.
5. The workers were to be paid (if they owed taxes, they could work them out).
6. Work on the roads was to be done during the period April 1—June 30.
7. The materials and tools were to be obtained in the most economical way.
8. Credit would be given to people for materials.
9. Workers were given credit for day's work on their tax "not to exceed 75¢ for keeping included for a man with cattle team (oxen) cart, plow be credited to the amount of his tax not exceeding \$2.00 for a day, keeping also included".

Town Planning for Fairfield is not new for the idea started when the Town was established.

The idea of order went into the planning for not only did Roger Ludlowe establish five big wide streets and four carefully planned Squares but planning continued slowly and thoughtfully with each year. In 1665 Cornelius Hull was given permission "to change ye land for his hop garden formerly given him for another place on the Aspetuck River".

Zoning is not new either for in 1673

The Towne grants Liberty to Richard Lyon to erect a hovell to put his cart in upon the highway at the front of his lot provided he does not prejudice the highway—this grant to continue to the Town's pleasure.

<sup>1</sup> Haywards were in charge of the cattle—keeping them from breaking through the fences as well as impounding the strays.



was voted by the Towne Meeting.

The next year Benjamin Turney was allowed:  
to dig a well upon the Common before his lot. He  
to sink the well where the Committee orders.

In 1675 —

The Towne hath granted unto John Banks half a  
years farther time to make up his dam at Sasqua  
Neck that erected to dam out the tide: according to  
a grant to him the 30 April 1664 if it be not done  
by the Time above said, the gained meadowe is to  
revert to the Towne according as it is provided in  
the above said order.

Jonathan Morehouse was granted:

a rod square of land about his well, he dug near  
his lot, provided he keeps it sufficiently fenced from  
the Common.

Any householder who gives entertaynment for  
future to any person that the Towne ar Townsmen  
shall give warning to not to inhabit any longer in  
the Towne but to depart the Towne: he shall forfeit  
a fine of the Towne Treasury of 19 shillings for such  
entertaynment and five shillings for every hour he  
shall so continue to entertayne, the marshall is to  
take inspection who are delinquent in this case and  
present it to effect and he is to have half the fines  
for the trouble therein.

Charles Lane appeared before ye Townsmen—he  
hath set up a house to dwell in near John Grumans  
without either leave of ye Towne.

The Townsmen warned him to remove said  
house.

A Committee was appointed to consider and  
rectify several disorders about the Town streets.

It was also voted that the highways and the  
Commons “are to be set apart from the persons’  
property and if they were found to be within the  
Commons or on the highways, the individual was  
fined”.

Richard Whitney was allowed to flood Com-  
mons while building a dam and it was made  
unlawful to cut wood on the Commons without  
being fined for same.

1797—Owners were allowed to set out trees  
on the highways

either for use or for ornament, provided the adjoin-  
ing proprietor shall be willing for such trees to be  
set out and stand and any such proprietor, or their  
heirs may order the same to be taken away.

In the 19th Century, the Surveyors of High-  
ways took on the task of collecting the tax mon-  
ey. Every person was given liberty to work out  
his “rate” (taxes) on the road, provided he fur-  
nish his own tools. He was to work 8 hours a day.  
If he failed to report when and where he was  
assigned he was to be debarred from working

out his rate in the future. Each Surveyor was  
allowed 75¢ per day for each day he worked in  
the interest of the Town.

The Town Meetings had been held in the  
Court House but in 1803 they were held in the  
Meeting House.

It was at that time that they voted:

that no nominations made by any of the several  
parishes shall have preference to be tried in Town  
Meeting for this or any future Town Meeting.

On December 26, 1803, the Town Meeting  
was held in the Greenfield Meeting House and  
it was voted that Doctor David Hull be not ex-  
cused from being Selectman. Now there were  
five Selectmen.

The first bit of road equipment was also  
ordered when it was voted:

that the Selectmen furnish a suitable number of  
drays to make and repair the roads . . . each sur-  
veyor shall be accountable to the Selectmen there-  
fore and return such dray to the place of deposit.

In 1806 it was decided to have the Town ac-  
counts lodged with the Selectmen for “publick  
inspection” and the tax collector was to get 4  
per cent of the collections for his salary. The  
Town Treasurer was to have \$5.00 for his serv-  
ices for the year.

In 1808 the five Selectmen were

to furnish the surveyors of highways with scrapers  
and ax shovels so called proper for mending high-  
ways . . . Selectmen were also to appoint proper  
places for deposit of these in each parish . . . they  
to be used for *no* other purpose.

It was also voted to have the annual meeting on  
the 1st Monday of December in each year at  
10:00 o’clock in the morning.

In 1811 there were just 4 Selectmen. The next  
year it was decided to have the annual meeting  
of the Selectmen on the first Monday in January  
—they were to appoint 2 of the Civil Authority  
to examine, audit and adjust the accounts of the  
Selectmen. These accounts were to be exhibited  
to the publick the last Monday of November  
each year.

Each Surveyor’s accounts were to be placed  
with the Selectmen on penalty of \$3.34 for either  
refusal or neglect.

Town Meeting attendance seemed to be quite  
good for at one in 1817 when a vote was re-  
corded

120—being for  
170—being against

Total 290



On October 11, 1819, four Assessors were chosen. Jonathan Bulkley made this entry:

Monday, October 11, 1819 was Town Meeting for the purpose of appointing assessors for the first time under the new Constitution when John Hull, Thomas F. Rowland, David Hill, L. W. Brothwell as assessors and Jesup Wakeman, Abraham D. Baldwin and Lyman Taylor as a Board of Relief.

It was also voted that the Town Meetings were to be held at 1:00 p.m. rather than at 10:00 a.m.

In 1823 it was ordered that:

each Surveyor of Highways was to return his highway tax book to the Selectmen in the parish to which he belongs . . . .

Thus, we see that the Selectmen still came from the several remaining parishes.

On February 6, 1826 it was further voted "that the choice of Selectmen shall be by ballot with the number of names to be chosen written on one piece of paper in the same manner as the Senators of the State are elected." In December of the same year, this was rescinded and it was voted to choose the Selectmen by a show of hands.

In 1836 it was voted:

that the Town Room in the Court House in the future be the place of holding Election Meetings instead of the Meeting House as heretofore practiced.

In 1850 the Selectmen were asked to look into the purchase of safes for the probate records.

The next year Henry Bradley became Registrar of Marriages, Births and Deaths—a new title.

1853 marked the first mention of the Town House as such. Previously it had been called the Town Room in the Court House.

In 1868 the annual meeting was held on October 5 rather than in December as had been customary and two Registrar of Voters were added to the roster of Town officers.

In 1869 a suitable vault was planned for the Town House and extensive repairs made.

On October 3, 1870 the polls opened at 10:00 a.m. and at 2:00 p.m. all went upstairs, ballot box and all where the annual reports of the Town Officers were read. At the close of the meeting the ballot box was taken again to the first floor where voting continued until 5:00 p.m.

The Town Clerk, Judge of Probate and Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths were ordered to move the records to the new vault.

It was voted that the Registrar of Voters be required to hold one session during the year

rather than four for the revision and correction of the voting list.

The Town Clerk's salary was now \$150, the Town Treasurer's \$250 and the Selectmen's \$4.00 a day while in the service of the Town and not to exceed the sum of \$250.

In 1874 there were just four Haywards and four Fence Viewers chosen—one for each parish—Fairfield, Greenfield, Stratfield, Southport. That same year the Board of School Visitors was named rather than just School Visitors.

1876 marked the first year for a printed Town Report. At that same time it was voted that:

Town Officers are not to be furnished with dinners at the expense of the Town.

In 1880 it was decided that:

2 box tenders and 4 checkers were to be employed for each future election.

In 1885 the Registrars of Voters were to receive \$50 each for their services.

Only taxpayers and residents were allowed to work on the highways. They were to put in a 10 hour day and to receive \$4 a day for a double team and \$3 a day for a single team, \$1.50 for a man.

In 1888 the first Board of Health became a reality and the next year the Selectmen were ordered to look into the purchase of a portable plant for crushing stones.

In 1891 the Town Auditors' salaries amounted to \$25 each and the Town Treasurer's \$300 provided he kept his records well. If they were not kept well, the \$150 figure would be used.

In 1895 it was Resolved:

that the political organizations of this town be requested to make their nominations for office at least two weeks before Election Day.

There were also five Game Keepers listed that year as officers. Election Day in 1895 ran from 6:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The next year the polls opened a half hour earlier and 896 votes were cast.

In 1897 maximum bridge weight signs were ordered for every bridge.

In 1899 there were seven Tellers for Election Day to count the Ballots and each received \$2.00 for his services.

In 1903 an Inspector of School Houses was planned and the following year the Selectmen were ordered to keep a record of their meetings. They were to procure a book for the records. There were just three Selectmen now. Town Meetings were held on Saturday afternoons at



3:00 p.m. (The Town Clerk was appointed clerk of the Selectmen meetings with a salary of \$150 in January, 1908—" \$50 being deducted from the current Selectmen's pay").

In 1907 a Committee of Five Members was recommended to be appointed concerning the affairs of the Town and the rate of tax to be laid. In 1908 such a committee was appointed. The Board of Equalization was to receive \$4.00 for each day that they were in the service of the Town.

In 1910, \$200 was allowed for the use of the Tree Warden. This same year at the annual Town Meeting, the following resolution was adopted:

*Town Vote*

Monday—October 3, 1910—2:00 p.m.

Resolved —

That for a more systematic, economical and businesslike management of the affairs of the Town, the Selectmen be and they are hereby instructed as follows, viz:

1. The Selectmen shall be in session at their office in the Town Hall on the first Monday of every month, for the payment of bills and any transaction of other business.
2. No bill shall be paid except upon a written order signed by at least two selectmen, and no bill shall be paid upon the day the same is presented.
3. At least one member of the Board shall be at the Town Hall on every Monday from two to four o'clock in the afternoon.
4. Excepting work of urgent and immediate necessity, costing not more than \$10.00, in any given case, no road work shall be done except upon the authority of at least two selectmen, which authority shall be by vote taken at a regular meeting of said selectmen.
5. A record shall be kept of all votes passed by said selectmen.

Passed

In 1912 a Mosquito Committee was appointed and in 1914 the Selectmen were expected to be in their Office afternoons of the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month to pay bills. Constable service (police protection) was also proposed that year.

1917 brought additional thoughts toward a Board of Finance and on April 15, 1918 a paper ballot was taken "to determine whether or not a Board of Finance shall be established". The result of the vote: Yes 142—No 82.

In 1927 it was voted that:

The Board of Selectmen shall have the power to regulate traffic on the Post Road at Fairfield Center by means of constables or other police officers assigned by them for that purpose or by means of traffic signals

and the next year it was decided to employ one or more persons to control automobile traffic in and through Town and for such other necessary services in maintaining law and order in Town.

In the spring of 1928 a Fire Commission was established and the following October an Ordinance was passed to create a Police Department. Voting machines were also planned for the Election in 1928—these to be rented.

In 1933 a Committee was appointed to survey the Town as to its efficiency and to recommend a more efficient way of running it.

A Committee was also appointed to study the Collection and Disposal of Garbage and Rubbish in the Town.

July 1, 1935 brought the adoption of the official seal of the Town and the Selectmen were given the authority to appoint a Board of Building Commissioners.

1937's accomplishments were numerous. The Town planned to operate a small claims court, a Recreation Commission was formed and a Police Commission was created.

Thus has been built our town organization—our present day government through 1940. A good solid, workable foundation has been laid for us. It is a real challenge to us to maintain this steady and even tempo of the past as Fairfield continues to grow.

\* \* \*

Little has been recorded about the Town Meeting Moderators. These were people, who perhaps for an evening or two or even many more, have kept order and direction in the votes of the town during the formal meetings. They have been unsung heroes during many tense moments.

In the early minutes no mention is made of these civil servants but there must have been a meeting chairman of some sort for their authority is spelled out at the meeting on May 6, 1678.

The Towne orders that the moderator of every meeting shall have power to give judgment of any that are culpable of a 3 pence fine for disorderly meeting and the Recorder shall enter such upon their names in the same publicke meeting upon notice of the moderator.

To honor these people in a small way, I am listing their names here. I trust I have listed each one, for I have endeavored to record each name as I have read it. Among those who have served this Town as Town Meeting Moderators or Chairmen are:



### *Town Meeting Moderators*

George Squire	David Hill
Nathan Gold	Thomas Robinson
Ebenezer Silliman	Robert Wilson
Capt. David Burr	John G. Allen
Gen. Gold Selleck Silliman	George Peck
Joseph Bradley	Joseph Bartram
Jonathan Sturges	David Sherwood
Andrew Rowland	Charles Bennett
Samuel Sherwood	Rufus Blakeman
Thaddeus Burr	Abraham G. Jennings
Hezekiah Hubbell	John Gould
George Burr	Moses Sherwood
Col. Elijah Abel	Jesup Alvord
Samuel Squier	Jonathan Bulkley
David Burr	William H. Bibbins
David Allen	Jeremiah T. Denison
Samuel Morehouse	John Gould
Seymour Taylor	Ebenezer Jesup
Ebenezer Banks	Jonathan Godfrey
Samuel Rowland	Levi Lyon
Samuel Sherwood	Sherwood Sterling
Thomas F. Rowland	John H. Glover
Hon. Gideon Tomlinson	Andrew Bulkley
Elisha Mills	Robert Wetmore
Jesup Wakeman	Frederick A. Bartram
Gershom Burr	Benjamin Pomeroy
Robert Wilson	Capt. Joseph Bartram
Jeremiah Sturges	J. D. Candee
Nathan Beers	O. B. Hall
John Q. Wilson	Dr. Bern L. Budd
Thomas B. Osborne	Edmond Hobart
Ebenezer Beers	Paschal Sheffield
Samuel Kellogg	William Bradley
Eliphalet Swift	Samuel Pike
Samuel B. Sherwood	Frank Wakelee
Alva Gray	Nelson M. Ogden
Joseph Wakeman	Frederick B. Thorp

Arthur Brown	C. V. Brothwell
Augustus Jennings	Clarence R. Hall
John H. Perry	Charles B. Jennings
David F. Beers	Newton Hoyt
Samuel Morehouse	Albert E. Lavery
William B. Glover	John H. Perry
David H. Sherwood	Arthur M. Marsh
Dr. William H. Donaldson	Rev. Allen E. Beeman
E. Livingston Wells	Abner W. Mitchell
Andrew P. Wakeman	J. Walter Perry
Arthur O. Jennings	Howard I. Comstock
Elmore S. Banks	H. C. Stevenson
E. W. S. Pickett	Edward J. Pease
Howard N. Wakeman	Bradford Boardman
Clitus H. King	Ned E. Ostmark
Bacon Wakeman	Herbert L. Cohen

### *Census of Fairfield*

#### *From Connecticut State Register and Manual*

1774	—	4,863
1782	—	5,276
1790	—	4,009
1800	—	3,735
1810	—	4,125
1820	—	4,151
1830	—	4,246
1840	—	3,654
1850	—	3,618
1860	—	4,379
1870	—	5,642
1880	—	3,748
1890	—	3,868
1900	—	4,489
1910	—	6,134
1920	—	11,475
1930	—	17,218
1940	—	21,135



## CHAPTER 11

### SCHOOLS OF FAIRFIELD TO 1940

The Town of Fairfield was settled by Roger Ludlowe and his little band of rugged pioneers in September 1639.

The following year a school was considered of prime importance and a building was constructed for the purpose. This was to be an All-Purpose building for not only was it used as the Town House and School House, but it was also the Meeting House until the planters could build a suitable House of Worship. This first schoolhouse probably stood where the First Church of Christ currently stands only more to the northwest and facing northeast. This was used as a schoolhouse until 1693 when it was given to Mr. Webb, the minister for his use as a parsonage.

There are a few interesting items available about this school and its scholars and they show us the many obstacles that the early people faced in trying to educate their children.

In 1661, the record shows that the town decided —

Whereas the town hath formerly voted that the school master shall have ten pounds towards his wages out of the town rate, it is now ordered that the fifteen pounds that remains of his wages, shall be paid by the masters and parents of such children as need teaching, from six years old and upwards. And if any shall send their children under six years, or girls, they shall be esteemed payable scholars. Sergeant Squire and Robert Turney are appointed to go to each family in the town and make trial what scholars are to be payable scholars to the school and bring in a list of the names to the secretary, that there may be a rate made to pay the schoolmaster.

One would imagine that Rev. John Jones, the first minister was probably also the first school teacher. (His successor, Rev. Samuel Wakeman was a teacher first and then became a minister.)<sup>1</sup>

On May 24, 1666, the town voted —

That all ye swamp land viz ye waste or common

<sup>1</sup> Later when Mr. Webb, the minister was ill, John Reed, the schoolmaster took his place and during this period he was released "from school duties as long as he supplies Mr. Webb's place in ye pulpit". The school teacher ranked next to the minister with those early people.

meadowe near Mr. Gold's in ye great meadowe excepting that part of it that Mr. Wakeman hath now in occupation, ye occupation and profit thereof shall be to ye proper use of a schoolmaster such as one as ye town shall approve of who shall attend ye calling for ye educating of children of ye town, this ye town sees cause to do towards his maintenance for his encouragement and ye property of ye land shall remain to ye town.

Since school business was a part of town business, all references possible have been taken from the Town Meeting Minutes. Some may not follow as distinctly and as succinctly as we would like to have them, but we must admit that they do give us an idea of the genuine devotion to education that those first people in Fairfield professed.

It would seem that by this time there was more than just one school for we find this information in the Town Records:

In 1668 "the Town hath granted for ye encouragement for ye school ye salt marsh at ye Horse Tavern below ye path and pond and swamp that lies in Sasco Field". This land was to "remain for ye future to a free school" and could not be given nor sold to any person whatsoever.

Further, one feels very sure that more than one school had been established for we also find in 1678 that:

The Towne orders that the Townsmen with addition of Major Gold and Jehu Burr, and do empower them as their committee to hire a Schoolmaster: as meet a person as they can procure to *each* school in the Towne: to answer the law this day published: they are empowered to agree with him both about his work and wages: and what they shall agree to for his satisfaction: the Town will perform, his maintenance to be raised by way of the Rate.

One schoolmaster probably served all schools teaching three or four months in the school on the Green and then moving on to another school in Town for another 3 or 4 months and then on to another for the remainder of the year.

A few years later we find that the East Farmers were to get 20 shillings from the Sheep



Treasury<sup>1</sup> towards the maintenance of their school and the schoolmaster was rehired for another year.

The Schoolmaster's pay was ever a problem. In 1669 the Town Meeting voted "The Towne is willing to entertain Mr. Shute as a schoolmaster, he to take the benefit of his scholars for his maintenance during the Towne's pleasure". We find, too, that the "schoolmaster's Rate for present to be paid to the schoolmaster within one week after this date"—and later:

Thomas Wilson protests against the Town's hiring Mr. Howard to be a schoolmaster in the Towne, hath by vote chosen Mr. Jehu Burr, Mr. John Burr, Henry Rowland, Sergeant Wheeler and Thomas Jones a Committee to hire a schoolmaster for the Towne forthwith for the next ensuing year after Mr. Harvey's year is ended: they are not to engage more than £40 for the year: as much less as they can.

They tried to reward him in ways other than financial and hoped he might remain with them for a longer period of time as well for we find:

The Towne grants to Mr. Bellemey an acre of land on the east side of Uncoway River for him to build on: provided he be a schoolmaster within the Towne of Fairfield seven years after this date, in case he remove from the Towne or cease from being a Schoolmaster in the Towne within the said seven years: then the said land is to revert to the Town, they paying him what is profitably improved—if he dies within seven years, the land will go to his wife and children.

In 1680 he was to receive 40 pounds per year for his services with the privilege of the schoolhouse and land.

It was a continuous struggle for those first folks to keep their schools going for not only did they find it difficult to secure and keep a teacher but the few necessities of the buildings too were a worry. One reads where the "Towne gave five loads of wood out of the Town Treasury towards the firing of the night scholars".

One reads later —

In getting the wood for the schoolhouse is to be raised upon the scholars, the schoolmaster is to proportion equitably according to the scholars sent: who and what loads of wood each inhabitant shall send in and to inform Goodman Rowland whose turn it is to bring in their proportion of wood and if such inhabitants shall neglect so to do: the said Goodman Rowland is to bring it in himself such delinquent inhabitant to pay him 3 shilling 4 d per load.

<sup>1</sup> The Sheep Treasury was made up of money acquired by the Town from fines for wandering sheep or from damage done by wandering animals to the sheep, or from the sale of unclaimed sheep. In other words any monies received from activities involving sheep.

and a little later —

The Townsmen enters an addition to the former order for the providing of wood for the present school whereas by the said order Goodman Rowland was to have three shillings and 4 pence per load, for such loads as he bring to the school to supply the defect of those that are delinquent therein, the Townsmen orders that the said 3 shillings 4 pence per load shall be added to next year's Towne Rate of such as are delinquent.

We also find that on another occasion the parents were to supply one load of wood for every two scholars. If they were delinquent, 4 shillings per load was added to their Towne Rate.

The early buildings, too, were at best very simple. They were perhaps about 18 feet by 12 feet in size with maybe a door and a window or two covered with oiled paper to let the light in. Glass was still scarce in this period. There probably was a fireplace for winter heating of the schoolroom.

Those parents, like Fairfield parents today, were seldom satisfied with their holdings and were always working toward improvement. They wanted the best for their children and were willing to work toward that.

It was not long before a new building was proposed on the Village Green and 20 lbs. set aside toward its construction. It was also voted that anything over in the "Sheep Treasury" was to go towards the building of the new school.

So often the Sheep Treasury helped out in an emergency. It must have been the "piggy bank" of the time.

While the new building was pending an appropriate room was ordered sought:

December 2, 1673

The Towne Impowers Henry Rowland and Sergeant Squire to procure a room for the teaching of School in this winter but the rent is to be paid not out of the Towne Treasury except what rent is due from Ely Browne.

The Towne hath chosen Mr. Jehu Burr and Sergeant Banks forthwith to go to all the Inhabitants of the Towne and take an account of each one of them will give to the maintenance of the school and to bring a list to the Towne of all the Youth that needs learning.

An early census you see!

The Towne impowers the Townsmen, the major part of them to agree with Mr. Charleton in the behalf of them to teach school in the Towne 12 months and what bargains they make with the schoolmaster the Towne will stand to.



# THE CONNECTICUT JOURNAL

W E D N E S D A Y SEPTEMBER 24, 1783.

[N<sup>o</sup>. 330.]

L I V E R P O O L, June 5.  
Extract of a letter from an officer of the 85th  
regiment, who came prisoner on board of  
his Majesty's ship Cato, to a gentleman in  
Whitehaven, dated Antigua, April 1.  
B F G R, the history of the Regency, which I  
wrote you from Halifax, I was in hopes  
to get home, instead of which I have now  
no other to send you from Antigua. We sailed  
from Halifax the 26th of January, in company  
with the Pallas and seven or eight frigates;  
four days after, about noon, being then of the  
coast of Newfoundland) the wind began to  
blow from the N. E.

## Staples's Free-School,

F A R F I E L D.  
N O T I C E is hereby given, That Staples's  
Free-School will be kept the ensuing  
Year in the Parish of Stratfield, in which will  
be taught the Latin & Greek Languages Rhe-  
torick, Geography, Geometry & other Branch-  
es of the Mathematicks, by Gentlemen pro-  
perly qualified for these Purposes. The next  
Term to begin Monday the 29th of this instant,  
September. By Order,  
A N D R E W E L I O T,  
One of the Trustees of said School.

the men had in their pouches. However, the  
natives did not think proper to attack us.  
June 2. A report is circulated, that a treaty  
of amity and commerce is about to be negoti-  
ated between the court of Madrid & the states  
of America, according to which, the latter are  
to bind themselves to support the sovereignty  
of Spain over her American possessions, in  
consideration of being allowed certain com-  
mercial privileges in trading with the  
European sea ports belonging to the ex-  
Spain.  
June 5. The Dutch left  
days from Antwerp.

Announcement of Staples's Free School—The Connecticut Journal—September 24, 1783

*This may certify that Mr. James Lyon has been  
Inspected by us and in our Opinion he is Capable  
of Teaching a good District School* *Seth Will*  
*Gersham Bradley*  
*Samuel Johnston*

Teaching Certificate of James Lyon—about 1800



# Single

# Rule of Three

If  $\frac{1}{2}$  Weight of Lead cost 15.11  
what cost is 5 other

Ans  $\frac{1}{2} : 15.11 :: 5 : ?$

$$\frac{1}{2} \quad 15.11 \quad 5$$

$$\frac{191}{9.55}$$

$$\frac{9.55}{14.3}$$

$$\frac{14.3}{191}$$

$$\frac{191}{19.5}$$

$$\frac{19.5}{19.5}$$

$$\frac{19.5}{18.622.1}$$

$$\frac{18.622.1}{15.51.10}$$

$$\frac{15.51.10}{77.11.10.2.1}$$

$$\frac{77.11.10.2.1}{19.5}$$

$$\frac{19.5}{19.5}$$

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$$\frac{19.5}{19.5}$$

$$\frac{19.5}{19.5}$$

What cost a pack of Wool  
weighing 2 1 19 at 8 p per lb

Ans  $2 : 19 :: 1 : ?$

$$\frac{2}{19}$$

$$\frac{19}{2}$$

$$\frac{2}{19}$$

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$$\frac{19}{2}$$

$$\frac{2}{19}$$

$$\frac{19}{2}$$

When the Son of Wine cost  
1 Quart

Ans  $1 : 42 :: 1 : ?$

$$\frac{1}{42}$$

$$\frac{42}{1}$$

$$\frac{1}{42}$$

$$\frac{42}{1}$$

$$\frac{1}{42}$$

$$\frac{42}{1}$$

$$\frac{1}{42}$$

$$\frac{42}{1}$$

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$$\frac{42}{1}$$

$$\frac{1}{42}$$

$$\frac{42}{1}$$

$$\frac{1}{42}$$

$$\frac{42}{1}$$

$$\frac{1}{42}$$

What cost a piece per lb Weight  
at 5 p per lb

Ans  $1 : 5 :: 1 : ?$

$$\frac{1}{5}$$

$$\frac{5}{1}$$

$$\frac{1}{5}$$

$$\frac{5}{1}$$

$$\frac{1}{5}$$

$$\frac{5}{1}$$

$$\frac{1}{5}$$

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$$\frac{5}{1}$$

$$\frac{1}{5}$$

$$\frac{5}{1}$$

$$\frac{1}{5}$$

At a Noble price Wicks how many  
Months Board may I have for

Ans  $1 : 8 :: 1 : ?$

$$\frac{1}{8}$$

$$\frac{8}{1}$$

$$\frac{1}{8}$$

$$\frac{8}{1}$$

$$\frac{1}{8}$$

$$\frac{8}{1}$$

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$$\frac{1}{8}$$

$$\frac{8}{1}$$

$$\frac{1}{8}$$

$$\frac{8}{1}$$

$$\frac{1}{8}$$

$$\frac{8}{1}$$

If a yard of Gambriche cost 12  
what 4 Pieces each 20

Ans  $1 : 12 :: 4 : ?$

$$\frac{4}{12}$$

$$\frac{12}{4}$$

$$\frac{4}{12}$$

$$\frac{12}{4}$$

$$\frac{4}{12}$$

$$\frac{12}{4}$$

$$\frac{4}{12}$$

$$\frac{12}{4}$$

$$\frac{4}{12}$$

$$\frac{12}{4}$$

$$\frac{4}{12}$$

$$\frac{12}{4}$$

$$\frac{4}{12}$$

$$\frac{12}{4}$$

$$\frac{4}{12}$$

$$\frac{12}{4}$$

If a yard of Broad cloth cost 18  
cost 3 pieces each 20 yards

Ans  $1 : 18 :: 3 : ?$

$$\frac{3}{18}$$

$$\frac{18}{3}$$

$$\frac{3}{18}$$

$$\frac{18}{3}$$

$$\frac{3}{18}$$

$$\frac{18}{3}$$

$$\frac{3}{18}$$

$$\frac{18}{3}$$

$$\frac{3}{18}$$

$$\frac{18}{3}$$

Eleanor B. Banks was born on August 26, 1792, the daughter of Joseph Banks who had been a Sergeant in the Revolutionary War. She had a sister Caroline who was born December 19, 1800. These are sample pages from Eleanor's Copy Book, dated 1805. This book together with Caroline's dated 1811, is at the Pequot Library. Both little girls attended Hulls Farms School which stood on Hulls Farms Road on the west corner of Morehouse Lane and was open only a few months each year at the time they attended. It would seem that they lived on Cedar Road.



# Single Rule of Three

If Lead be sold for  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per lb  
what is  $5\frac{1}{2}$  Hght worth

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{As } 1 : \frac{1}{4} :: \frac{3}{4} \\ \hline 1 \\ \frac{1}{4} \\ \hline 1\frac{1}{4} \\ \frac{3}{4} \\ \hline 2\frac{1}{4} \\ \frac{3}{4} \\ \hline 3 \\ \frac{1}{4} \\ \hline 3\frac{1}{4} \\ \frac{1}{4} \\ \hline 4 \\ \frac{1}{4} \\ \hline 4\frac{1}{4} \\ \frac{1}{4} \\ \hline 4\frac{1}{2} \end{array}$$

Answer

If Coffee be sold for  $8\frac{1}{4}$  per lb  
what is  $6$  weight worth

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{As } 1 : 8\frac{1}{4} :: 6 \\ \hline 1 \\ 8 \\ \frac{1}{4} \\ \hline 8\frac{1}{4} \\ 6 \\ \hline 50\frac{1}{4} \\ \frac{1}{4} \\ \hline 50\frac{1}{2} \end{array}$$

Answer

## Of Inverse Proportion.

Q. What is Inverse Proportion?

A. Inverse Proportion is when more requires less, or less requires more.

Q. What is meant by more requires less?

A. More requires less, is when a third Term is greater than the first, and requires the fourth Term to be less than the second.

Q. What is meant by less requires more?

A. Less requires more, is when the third Term is less than the first, and requires the fourth Term to be greater than the second.

Q. How is the fourth Term in Inverse Proportion found?

A. By multiplying the first and the second Terms together, and dividing that Product by the third Term.

Q. What Proportion does the fourth Term bear to any of the rest?

A. It bears such proportion to the second, as the first does to the third.

Eleonor B. Banks Cyphering Book



# Simple Division

$$\begin{array}{r}
 10567 \overline{) 1912167121} \quad 188075 \\
 \underline{16167} \phantom{000000} \\
 30546 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{89344} \phantom{000000} \\
 81336 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{82107} \phantom{000000} \\
 81336 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{771129} \phantom{000000} \\
 71149 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{59431} \phantom{000000} \\
 50825 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{8596} \phantom{000000}
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 12177 \overline{) 1771268756} \quad 145460 \\
 \underline{12177} \phantom{000000} \\
 55356 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{48708} \phantom{000000} \\
 66488 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{60880} \phantom{000000} \\
 56087 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{48708} \phantom{000000} \\
 73295 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{73062} \phantom{000000} \\
 2336 \phantom{000000}
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 7140 \overline{) 17021617126} \quad 993093 \\
 \underline{154260} \phantom{000000} \\
 159561 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{154260} \phantom{000000} \\
 53017 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{51420} \phantom{000000} \\
 159712 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{154260} \phantom{000000} \\
 54526 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{51420} \phantom{000000} \\
 3106 \phantom{000000}
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 16921 \overline{) 11010213766} \quad 650683 \\
 \underline{101526} \phantom{000000} \\
 85761 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{84605} \phantom{000000} \\
 115637 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{101526} \phantom{000000} \\
 141116 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{135368} \phantom{000000} \\
 57486 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{50763} \phantom{000000} \\
 6723 \phantom{000000}
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 28749 \overline{) 12171675646} \quad 423377 \\
 \underline{114996} \phantom{000000} \\
 67207 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{57498} \phantom{000000} \\
 97095 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{86247} \phantom{000000} \\
 108456 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{86247} \phantom{000000} \\
 222394 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{201243} \phantom{000000} \\
 211516 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{201243} \phantom{000000} \\
 10273 \phantom{000000}
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 44981 \overline{) 16679126711} \quad 370803 \\
 \underline{134943} \phantom{000000} \\
 318482 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{314867} \phantom{000000} \\
 361567 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{339848} \phantom{000000} \\
 216719 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{134943} \phantom{000000} \\
 36968 \phantom{000000}
 \end{array}$$

Elmer B. Banks

Copying Book

January 31 Hullofarms

There a love is happiness below

If I am right my grace

Imperfect still in the night

Stay if I am wrong O teach

My heart to find the better way



Simple

Division

$$\begin{array}{r}
 1412 \overline{) 1617128768} \quad \begin{array}{r} 1145275 \\ 1412 \\ \hline 2290538 \\ 1145281 \\ \hline 4581104 \\ 1145275 \\ \hline 1617128768 \end{array} \\
 \underline{1412} \phantom{000000} \\
 2057 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{1412} \phantom{000000} \\
 6392 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{5648} \phantom{000000} \\
 7448 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{7060} \phantom{000000} \\
 3887 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{2824} \phantom{000000} \\
 10636 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{9884} \phantom{000000} \\
 7528 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{7060} \phantom{000000} \\
 468
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 1611 \overline{) 61712687128} \quad \begin{array}{r} 38307068 \\ 1611 \\ \hline 13382 \\ 38307068 \\ \hline 12888 \\ 38307076 \\ \hline 4946 \\ 38307068 \\ \hline 4833 \\ 61712687128 \end{array} \\
 \underline{4833} \phantom{000000} \\
 13382 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{12888} \phantom{000000} \\
 4946 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{4833} \phantom{000000} \\
 11387 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{11277} \phantom{000000} \\
 11012 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{9666} \phantom{000000} \\
 13468 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{12888} \phantom{000000} \\
 580
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 1710 \overline{) 161212137} \quad \begin{array}{r} 94276 \\ 1710 \\ \hline 942837 \\ 659933 \\ \hline 94276 \\ 161212137 \end{array} \\
 \underline{13390} \phantom{000000} \\
 7312 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{6840} \phantom{000000} \\
 4721 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{3420} \phantom{000000} \\
 13013 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{11970} \phantom{000000} \\
 10437 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{10260} \phantom{000000} \\
 177
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 2014 \overline{) 1714261211} \quad \begin{array}{r} 851172 \\ 2014 \\ \hline 10306 \\ 3404691 \\ \hline 10070 \\ 851172 \\ \hline 2361 \\ 17023448 \\ \hline 2014 \\ 1714261211 \end{array} \\
 \underline{16112} \phantom{000000} \\
 10306 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{10070} \phantom{000000} \\
 2361 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{2014} \phantom{000000} \\
 3472 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{2014} \phantom{000000} \\
 14581 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{14098} \phantom{000000} \\
 4831 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{4028} \phantom{000000} \\
 803
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 2410 \overline{) 12612171} \quad \begin{array}{r} 5233 \\ 2410 \\ \hline 52371 \\ 20938 \\ \hline 10466 \\ 12612171 \end{array} \\
 \underline{12050} \phantom{000000} \\
 5621 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{4820} \phantom{000000} \\
 8017 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{7230} \phantom{000000} \\
 7871 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{7230} \phantom{000000} \\
 641
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 3712 \overline{) 12612612} \quad \begin{array}{r} 3397 \\ 3712 \\ \hline 6802 \\ 3401 \\ \hline 23788 \\ 10193 \\ \hline 28932 \\ 12612612 \end{array} \\
 \underline{11136} \phantom{000000} \\
 14766 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{11136} \phantom{000000} \\
 36301 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{33408} \phantom{000000} \\
 28932 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{26984} \phantom{000000} \\
 2944
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 4019 \overline{) 126113367} \quad \begin{array}{r} 31378 \\ 4019 \\ \hline 282407 \\ 31386 \\ \hline 1255171 \\ 126113367 \end{array} \\
 \underline{12057} \phantom{000000} \\
 5543 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{4019} \phantom{000000} \\
 15243 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{12057} \phantom{000000} \\
 31866 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{28103} \phantom{000000} \\
 37337 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{32152} \phantom{000000} \\
 5185
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 5028 \overline{) 1617198758} \quad \begin{array}{r} 321638 \\ 5028 \\ \hline 2573108 \\ 643285 \\ \hline 16081928 \\ 1617198758 \end{array} \\
 \underline{15084} \phantom{000000} \\
 10879 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{10056} \phantom{000000} \\
 8238 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{5028} \phantom{000000} \\
 32107 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{30168} \phantom{000000} \\
 19395 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{15084} \phantom{000000} \\
 43118 \phantom{000000} \\
 \underline{40224} \phantom{000000} \\
 2894
 \end{array}$$



# Barter.

A & B barter A hath 20 cwt. of prunes at  $\frac{1}{4}$  per lb ready money, but but in barter will have 32 per lb. and B hath hops worth 32 per cwt. ready money what ought B to rate his hops at in barter, and what quantity must be given for the 20 cwt. of prunes

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{A } 4 \dots 5 \dots 32 \\ \hline 4 \overline{) 160} \\ \underline{40} \\ 12 \\ \underline{480} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 112 \\ 20 \\ \hline 2240 \\ 430 \overline{) 112000} \\ \underline{960} \\ 160 \\ 112 \\ \hline 48 \overline{) 648} \quad (1 \\ \underline{48} \\ 16 \\ 28 \\ \underline{128} \\ 48 \overline{) 448} \quad (9 \\ \underline{432} \\ 16 \end{array}$$

How much tea at  $9^s$  per lb. can I have in barter for 4 cwt. 2 gr. of chocolate at  $4^s$  per lb.

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{A } 4 \text{ cwt. } 2 \text{ gr.} \\ 1 \cdot 4 \dots 4 \dots 2 \\ \hline 18 \\ 28 \\ \hline 141 \\ 36 \\ \hline 504 \\ 20 \overline{) 2016} \\ \underline{1008} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{A } 9 \dots 1 \dots 100 \dots 16 \\ \hline 20 \\ 9 \overline{) 2016} \quad 2c \\ \underline{28} \quad 224 \quad (48 \\ \underline{224} \quad 24 \end{array}$$



# Equation of Payments

He is indebted to A a certain sum which is to be paid at 6 different payments thus £100 at 2 months & at 3 months & at 4 months & at 5 months & at 6 months & the rest at 7 months but they agree that the whole shall be paid at one time & equated time <sup>that time</sup> what is

$$\begin{array}{r}
 250 \times 2 = 500 \\
 125 \times 3 = 375 \\
 125 \times 4 = 500 \\
 250 \times 5 = 1250 \\
 125 \times 6 = 750 \\
 125 \times 7 = 875
 \end{array}$$

on weeks

---


$$\begin{array}{r}
 1000 \overline{) 4350} \quad 4 \cdot 2 \\
 \underline{4000} \phantom{0} \\
 350
 \end{array}$$


---


$$\begin{array}{r}
 1000 \overline{) 2450} \\
 \underline{2000} \\
 450
 \end{array}$$

It is indebted to B 120. whereof  $\frac{1}{2}$  is to be paid at 3 months & at 6 months & the rest at 9 months, what is the equated time of the whole payment?

$$\begin{array}{r}
 60 \times 3 = 180 \\
 30 \times 6 = 180 \\
 30 \times 9 = 270 \\
 \hline
 120 \overline{) 630} \\
 \underline{540} \\
 90
 \end{array}$$

Ans

## Barter Rule

Is the exchanging one commodity for another & informs the trader so to proportion their goods that neither may sustain loss. 1<sup>st</sup> Find the value of that commodity whose quantity is given, then find what quantity of the other, at the rate proposed you may have for the same money. 2<sup>nd</sup> When one has goods at a certain rate price, ready money, but in bartering advances it to something more, find what the other ought to rate his goods, at in proportion to the advances and then proceed as before.

Eleanor B. Barker  
Cyphering Book



# Partnerships With Time

Three merchants join in company for 18 months.  
 D put in 500 £ at 5 months and took out 200 £ at 10 months end put in 300 £ at the end of 14 months took 130 £.  
 E put in 400 and at the end of three months took 270 more at 9 months he takes out 140 £ but put in 100 at the end of 12 months & withdraws 99 at the end of 15 months.  
 F put in 900 £ at 6 months took out 200 at the end of 11 months put in 500 but takes out that & 100 more at the end of 13 months. They gained 500 £ desire to know each man's share of the gain.

500 x 5 = 2500	400 x 3 = 1200	900 x 3 = 2700
200 x 3 = 600	270 x 3 = 810	200 x 3 = 600
300 x 3 = 900	140 x 3 = 420	100 x 3 = 300
400 x 4 = 1600	500 x 3 = 1500	500 x 3 = 1500
130 x 4 = 520	100 x 3 = 300	
470 x 4 = 1880	99 x 3 = 297	
8280	531 x 3 = 1593	
10153		
14100		

$$32533 : 200 :: 8280$$

$$32533 \overline{) 165600} \begin{matrix} 50 \\ 162665 \\ \hline 29350 \\ 20 \end{matrix}$$

$$32533 : 200 :: 10153$$

$$32533 \overline{) 2030600} \begin{matrix} 62 \\ 195198 \\ \hline 78622 \\ 143866 \\ \hline 13534 \\ 20 \end{matrix}$$

$$32533 : 200 :: 8$$

$$32533 \overline{) 271080} \begin{matrix} 8 \\ 260264 \\ \hline 108416 \\ 13534 \\ \hline 20 \end{matrix}$$

$$32533 : 200 :: 3$$

$$32533 \overline{) 1297920} \begin{matrix} 3 \\ 97599 \\ \hline 32193 \\ 4 \end{matrix}$$

$$32533 : 200 :: 3$$

$$32533 \overline{) 1297920} \begin{matrix} 3 \\ 97599 \\ \hline 32193 \\ 4 \end{matrix}$$

$$86 : 13 :: 7 : 1$$

$$62 : 8 :: 3 : 3$$

$$50 : 8 :: 0 : 0$$

$$199 : 19 : 11 : 0$$

$$32533 : 200 :: 14100$$

$$32533 \overline{) 2820000} \begin{matrix} 86 \\ 260264 \\ \hline 217360 \\ 195198 \\ \hline 22162 \\ 20 \end{matrix}$$

$$32533 : 200 :: 13$$

$$32533 \overline{) 4432400} \begin{matrix} 13 \\ 32533 \\ \hline 117910 \\ 97599 \\ \hline 20311 \\ 12 \end{matrix}$$

$$32533 : 200 :: 27$$

$$32533 \overline{) 2437320} \begin{matrix} 27 \\ 2271131 \\ \hline 166001 \\ 4 \end{matrix}$$

$$32533 : 200 :: 41$$

$$32533 \overline{) 6400000} \begin{matrix} 41 \\ 32533 \\ \hline 31471 \\ 4 \end{matrix}$$



Mr. Charleton must have earned the townspeople's approval for on April 28, 1674:

The Towne impowers the Townsmen in the Town's behalf to hire Mr. Charleton, a schoolmaster among us for another half year more that the Towne hath already impowered them to hire him and what bargain they make the Towne will stand to it.

In 1687 another new name appears as schoolmaster—Edward Howard was chosen for the year. He was to receive 4 pence per week from *each scholar*, he was allowed to use one half of the Towne House—however John Burr, Sr., protested against paying anything to the “said schoolmaster”. It was difficult for the schoolmaster to please everyone.

In most instances the schoolmaster seemed to stay about a year.

New names appeared ever so frequently either directly through school matters or in some other way. For example we find that 30 lbs. of said produce (sheep) was given to Mr. Wakeman (minister), and 25 lbs. to Mr. Simson to encourage him in his keeping a free school. Anything above this was to go to the Towne—Mr. Dugal Simson was to use the School land and the Towne House for a free school.

One wonders about the Curriculum of the first schools. Those schools though meager in structure were respected places by young and old alike. Records show that in 1644 children were compelled to make many a deep indentation in their brain with the sharp points of sums in Arithmetic not easy to do, and with sentences not readily subjected to the rules of grammar, and long words difficult to spell. One must confess though, that while long and difficult words were accepted as a regular part of the curriculum, there was apparently little carry over into regular and practical use each day. The old records indicate the evidence of frequent misspelling of words. Old letters, old reports, old accounts, old records, all so often show extremely poor spelling. However, incorrect or correct, we shall ever be grateful for the tireless effort and zeal of those early people in putting things down in writing so that we might today know what took place then. Also included in the Curriculum were hard points in theology, seasoned with texts of scripture coupled with knotty questions of election, of faith, of works and saving grace. Bits of practical philosophy, maxims that had been tested and found to be solid, old English proverbs, scraps of experience were salted down for future reference. Reverence of gray

hairs and respectful treatment of woman were also among the things they were obliged to learn.

Next to the minister, the schoolmaster was regarded with the profoundest respect and when he rambled in the fields or walked in the village with his head bowed in meditation upon some grave moral question or perhaps solving some ponderous sum, the boys dared never pass him without pulling off their hats.

In 1693 it was voted that the schoolmaster be ordered to “teach English and Latin to those who desire it”.

Great attention had been paid to the establishment of schools throughout Connecticut since its settlement and in 1674 the General Court had granted 200 acres of land to Fairfield for a Grammar School. The land was “to be improved in the best way for the benefit of such a school and to no other use or end whatever”. In 1678 the Court ordered every town to keep school at least three months in a year or forfeit five pounds which sum should be paid towards the maintenance of a grammar school in the county. The schools had been up to now maintained by a general tax locally unless some other way of supporting a schoolmaster was adopted. Every town in Connecticut that had increased to 30 families was now ordered to maintain a school to teach children to read and write.

In 1691 the Assembly voted that the Grand Jurymen in each town should visit each family once a year and “to satisfy themselves whether all children under age and servants were making due progress in learning”. They were to be fined twenty shillings for each child or servant not sent to school unless their children or servants were not able to learn.

Town schools were to be kept up where such had already existed, and were exempt from fine, provided they were open six months in the year for all such children and servants as were engaged in the summer months in the fields.

In May 1693 the General Court granted Fairfield County 20 pounds towards maintaining grammar schools. That amount was to be drawn upon by the towns. Previously it had been only 10 pounds.

A new schoolhouse was planned in 1695 to be “23 feet x 16 feet, one room high and shall stand between the smith's shop and the parsonage”. The committee was ordered “to procure ye said house as cheap as they can at ye Towne's Charge”. The Towne was growing and so was the size of the schoolhouse!



In 1702 Captain Nathan Gold, Lieutenant John Wakeman and Peter Burr were appointed to lay out six hundred acres of land in the Town of Fairfield for the benefit of a grammar school.

The next year the farmers at Maxumux were allowed "to erect a schoolhouse on the Green about where the present school now stands in Southport".

A portion of the school long-lot was granted to Joseph Bradley in exchange for other land included in the Mile of Common and was granted to Mr. Bradley for the purpose of aiding in the maintenance of a school in Greenfield.

In 1713 it was ordered by the General Court that every Parish in the State should have a school of its own and that 40 shillings on every thousand pounds should be paid out of taxes of each parish towards its support.

The Selectmen were ordered by the State in 1715 to visit the schools in their town quarterly and inquire into the qualifications of the masters, their diligence in teaching, as well as the proficiency of the scholars and to make a report of their findings to the next Assembly.

Two years later each Society or Parish consisting of 70 families was made to keep a school 11 months and if there were fewer families the time requirement was set at six months.

Fairfield was granted a patent for the school lands. These lands were to be improved for the use of a Grammar School and for nothing else. The patent was granted to Hon. Nathan Gold Esqr., Peter Burr Esqr., Major John Burr, Capt. Joseph Wakeman, Capt. Moses Dimon, Lieut. Jonathan Sturges and their heirs at the common law, to hold the said 600 acres of land for the use of the schools.

Church business and school business were one and both were considered at the same meeting. The earliest First Church of Christ records which are available show the following:

January 13, 1728—also voted that Moses Dimon Esqr., Lieut. Gideon Allen, John Osborn, Robert Silliman, Sen'r., Andrew Burr Esq. and Samuel A. Burr shall be a Committee for said School for this Society for said year ensuing and yearly as in September 1734. Put to vote whether Andrew W. Burr, Thos. Hult, Thomas Merwin shall be a Committee for said School in said Society and passed in the affirmative.

The Committee varied in size and its members were not assigned necessarily to districts until—

February 4, 1746—Put to vote whether Benjamin ———, Eph'rm Burr, Nathaniel Burr, Jur., shall be a Committee for said School that is kept on said

meeting house Green and passed in the affirmative. Put to vote whether Robert Wilson, Daniel Jennings shall be a Committee for the School that is kept in Jennings Woods and passed in the affirmative.

Put to vote whether James Beers, Ebn'r Osborn shall be a committee for that School that is kept on ye Mill Plain and passed in the affirmative.

Put to a vote whether that School in Jennings Woods and that School on ye Mill Plain—shall have £18 old tenor money provided they keep for writing and reading school three months in this year and passed in the affirmative.

Put to a vote whether to be necessary to build a new Meeting House in this Society and passed in the affirmative by more than two thirds of the legal voters then present.

On March 31, 1755, the town meeting voted that all school lands in the town should be sold for lawful money and distributed among the Societies of the Town, viz; the first and ancient Society to have one half of said money said land shall sell for; the other half to be divided into three equal parts; the West Parish to have one-third part, and the other third part to be divided between the parish of Redding and part of the parish of Stratfield—for the maintenance of the schools only.

These records were also available:

An account of the expenses of the School kept in Hulls Farms by Samuel Smith from ye 2nd of December 1754 to March 2, 1775 at £25 per month.

	£75
for eight Load of wood at 35/	£14-0-0

The wood was provided by:

Jonathan Middlebrooke—one load
Joseph Jennings—one load
Cornelius Hull—half load
Daniel Sherwood—half load
Samuel Smith 2nd—half load
Nehemiah Banks—one load
Ebenezer Banks—half load
Sarah Redfield—half load
Daniel Sturgis—one load and half

Fairfield March ye 26, 1755

Then received of Daniel Sherwood School Committee the sum of sixty-five pounds seven shillings money of old tenor. I say rec'd by me.

Samuel Smith.

And also these:

Fairfield May ye 29, 1769

Rec'd of Daniel Sherwood 3rd School Committee the sum of eight pounds lawful money which is in full of all my demands for keeping school the term of four months.

I say Rec'd by me

Ebenezer Banks  
Schoolmaster

Fairfield June ye 21, 1776

Rec'd of Daniel Sherwood 2nd School Committee the sum of forty shillings lawful money in part of my school wages.

David Burr 3rd  
Schoolmaster



In 1786 it was voted that the "two Center School districts in the Prime Society in this Town have Liberty to make a swing partition across the Town House that for the convenience of the school".

In May 1795, the General Court of Connecticut passed an Act requiring all duly located Societies of the State to hold annual meetings in October and as a part of the prescribed business for these sessions to "transact such business on the subject of schooling" as might be necessary to enable them to receive for educational purposes the proceeds of the then recent sale of Connecticut lands in the "Western Reserve" which proceeds form the nucleus of our present school fund. The Towne being obedient to that Statute, a meeting of all the voters living in "the First Located Society in Fairfield" later known as the "First Located School Society" was called for October 27, 1796. Six School Districts were formed out of the area, the bounds established and officers chosen. The districts named were Black Rock, Jennings Woods, Middle, East of Middle, Mill Plain and Mill River. These districts were undoubtedly the parish of the Prime Society or the Congregational Church for the Church had managed and located the schools. As new Parishes were set apart, new school districts were established. Records of this First Located School Society are now at the Fairfield Historical Society. Bounds established at that very first meeting are included here.

#### 1796

At a meeting of all the Inhabitants living within the limits of the first located Society in Fairfield, legally warned and held at the Court House in said Society on the 27th Day of October A.D. 1796.

In order to form and organize the place into a School Society according to one Statute Law of this State act appropriating arising on the Sale of the Western Lands.

Elijah Abel to be chosen Moderator for said School meeting.

Daniel Osborn was chosen clerk for the school Society and sworn according to the Law.

Voted and agreed that the School Society Clerk purchase a book to record the doings of the said School Society at the cost of said Society.

Voted and agreed that Samuel Rowland Esqr., Isaac Bibbins and Nathan Beers 3rd be appointed a Committee to take care of and manage the prudential affairs of the said School Society and also to receive the interest of the monies arising on the sale of the Western Lands that belongs to this School Society.

Voted and agreed that the several districts for Schools in this Society be and remain the same as they were in the last Ecclesiastical Society Meeting

—and the clerk for the School Society is hereby ordered to locate the said districts.

Voted and agreed that the first District for a school in this Society—to begin at Black Rock a little easterly of John Wheeler's house and to run northwardly of David Wheeler's house—and from thence to run down to Morehouse's Bridge so called thence to run down the River eastward to Grover's Hill point—and from thence running up the Harbor as far as to the place first set out—all the Inhabitants contained within said limits to be one district for a school in said Society—and to be called by the name of Black Rock district.

Voted and agreed that the Second district for a school in this Society—to begin at the North Corner of this first Society, and to run eastward taking the whole width of said Society, so far as to take in the families of Daniel Wilson dec'd.—the family of Hollingsworth and the family of Edmond Burr, all the Inhabitants contained within said Limits—to be one district for a School in said Society—and to be called by name of Jennings Woods district.

Voted and agreed that the third district for a School in the Society—to begin a little above Squire Parrot's house and to the eastward taking the whole width of two opposite points viz: a little westward of Mary Silliman's house and to the eastward of Isaac Bibbin's house and to run down below William Morehouse's house—all the Inhabitants contained within said limits—to be one district for a School in said Society and to be called by the name of East of the Middle district.

Voted and agreed that the fourth for a School in this Society—to begin Northward of Aaron Turney's house and to extend westward as far as to take in Barlow's plain and eastward as far as to take in Walter Staples' house, and the families of Penfield at the Mills and to run westward taking in the whole width of the two extreme points as far as Redfield's Bridge—all the Inhabitants contained within said limits adding Truby's family to be one district for a School in said Society and to be called by the name of the Middle district.

Voted and agreed that the fifth district for a School in this Society—to begin at Redfield's Bridge, so called, and to run north as far as to take in Gershom Osborn's house and from thence to run to the Mill River a little above Ezekial Hall's house and from thence to run down the River as far as the dividing line between this Society and Greenfield Society, and to run on the dividing line west, so far as to take in the families of the Sherwoods on the Mill Hill and to run eastward down to the Mill River and to run across the said River a little west of Elnathan Smith's house and to run down the River to MacKenzie's point and from thence to run with a straight line to Redfield's Bridge—all the Inhabitants contained within said Limits, except Ansel Truby and Jabez Perry's families, to be one district for a school in said Society and to be called by the name of Mill Plain district.

Voted and agreed, that the sixth district for a School in this Society—to begin a little northward of the house where Thomas Elwood now lives and to run west so far as to take Gershom Bulkley's 2nd



house at Sasco River and from thence to run down said Sasco River to the mouth of said River, and from thence along the sea shore east up the Mill River to the place first began at, all the Inhabitants contained within said Limits adding Jabez Perry's family to be one district for a School in said Society and to be called by the name of Mill River district.

Voted and agreed that John Wheeler be appointed a Committee for the School at Black Rock.

Voted and agreed that John Wilson be appointed a Committee for the School at Jennings Woods.

Voted and agreed that William Morehouse be appointed a Committee for the School eastward of the Middle district.

Voted and agreed that Lewis B. Sturgis Esqr. and David Judson be appointed a committee for the School in the Middle district.

Voted and agreed that Nathan Beers 3rd be appointed a committee for the School at Mill Plain.

Voted and agreed that Miah Perry be appointed a committee for the School at the Mill River.

The annual meetings of the First Located School Society were held in the Court House each year. There were 9 School Visitors chosen annually. In 1799 those chosen for that purpose were: Andrew Elliott, Lewis B. Sturgis, Jesup Wakeman, Samuel Smedley, Ebenezer Dimon, David Allen, Samuel Rowland, David Burr, and David Hill.

At the meeting in 1801 it was suggested that the Middle District be divided into 2 districts in this fashion—"that the road running from William Squire's dwelling house to Ebenezer Burr's dwelling house shall be the dividing line between the two districts. The inhabitants living on the east side of said road shall be considered as belonging to Stone Bridge district and the inhabitants on the west side of said road, as belonging to the Middle District". That was not accepted by some of the members and the following year it was voted to reunite the Stone Bridge district with the Middle district. However, dissension continued in 1805 the question of division was brought again to the annual meeting and the following decided upon:

Voted—we the subscribers being appointed at a Meeting of the Society School Meeting held at the Court House in Fairfield October 26, 1805. A Committee for the purpose of dividing the middle district of the School Society in Fairfield have agreed to the following division: The following to comprehend the west district beginning at the East end of Lewis B. Sturgis dwelling house thence running a south by east course to the Sound and from said East end of said Sturgis House to follow the main road westerly to the east end of John Gold Allen's dwelling house from thence following the road northerly by Moses Jennings dwelling house to the

next district including all buildings, westerly and southerly of said lines and the following to comprehend the Eastern district beginning at the East end of Lewis B. Sturgis house running a southeast course to the Sound and from said East end Sturgis house running to the southwest corner of James Knapp's dwelling house thence following the road northerly by Isaac Jennings' dwelling house to the next district including all buildings northerly and easterly of said lines.

Fairfield Oct. 30, 1805.

Jesup Wakeman  
Miah Perry  
John Hull

Voted—that the Eastern division of the Middle District be called and forever hereafter known by the name of the Bridge Hill District.

That decision was by no means final for in 1806 it was voted to join the Bridge Hill district and the Middle district as one and that the combined district would be known "henceforth as the Middle District".

Two years later it was voted first to divide the district and this vote changed later on in the same meeting to keep it as one district as before.

In 1810 the question of division came up once again.

The next year they voted that if there was one or more who wished a change in district, they were to give notice to the Committee so that it could be brought up at the meeting. In 1814 there was a large group that wanted to be set off from the Bridge Hill district and united with the Middle district. The next year the Middle district lines were changed once again. In 1816 it was changed once more and in 1818 the two sections again became known as the Middle district.

In 1824 the School Districts of this Society were shown to be as follows:

Stone Bridge district was non-existent.

Districts established October 20, 1824—

(1) Mill River district:

To commence at the northwest corner of this parish and to follow the parish line southerly to the Sound at the mouth of Sasco Creek so called—from thence on the shore to the mouth of Mill River harbour—thence northerly on the westerly side of the Mill River to the Great Hill so called—thence a district line to the northwest corner of this parish at the place of beginning.

(2) Mill Plain district:

To commence at the mouth of Mill River on the easterly side thereof—pursuing the shore easterly to the Sasco Neck road so called—thence northerly on the easterly side of said Sasco Neck road until it intersects the turnpike thence easterly on the northerly side of the turnpike to the corner of Gershom Beers' house so called—crossing the road to the



Great Elm tree—thence a direct line from Great tree to the house of Mr. Gershom Osborn stand on the east side of the Round Hill so called—thence westerly in a direct line to Hull's Bridge so called and from thence southerly and westerly to the line of Mill River district already described.

(3) Middle District:

To commence at the mouth of the west side of Ash Creek so called thence pursuing the westerly side of said Creek to Squires or the Black Rock Bridge so called—thence a straight line to westerly side of Jeffrey Wakeman's homestead—thence a straight line to the house of Gershom Osborn on the easterly side of Round Hill. Thence taking the line of the Mill Plain district to Sasco Neck Road so called—bounded on the southerly line of said district by the Sound.

(4) Black Rock district:

To contain all the territory in this parish lying easterly of Ashhouse Creek.

(5) Holland Hill district:

To commence at Amos Burr's Mill following northerly the parish line to Walter Morehouse's house including T. Morehouse's house thence in a direct line to the old Chestnut Stump so called—from ———— to the house of Moses Gould including the same—from thence in a direct line to the house of Gershom Osborn on the easterly side of Round Hill before alluded to—including said house from this district from thence following the northerly and easterly line of the Middle district to Black Rock bridge so called—thence following Ash Creek to Amos Burr's Mill, the place began at.

(6) Jennings Woods district:

To include all the territory north and east of the foregoing described limits or district in the parish of Fairfield.

The foregoing is a true Copy and Record of the doings of Town Meeting held on the 20th day of October 1824.

Samuel Beers, Clerk.

While the First Located School Society was carrying on its necessary business, the rest of the Town too was caring for its youngsters as the law of 1796 required. The Greenfield Parish established its several districts as well. The records show:

At a meeting of the inhabitants of the parish of Greenfield, legally warned, we, the subscribers were appointed a committee for the purpose of dividing and limiting the several school districts in said parish; having met according to our said appointment, we apportioned and set off the inhabitants of said parish to the respective districts and bounded them in the following manner, viz:

*Hull's Farms District*

Bounded 20 rods north of Daniel Hull's; south on Sherwood Brook, including the road by Stratton's, running through thereon to 20 rods north of Jacob White's and 20 rods north of James Redfield's.

*Center District*

Bounded south to about 20 rods north of Jacob White's and James Redfield's and taking country road to a brook south of Elijah Banks' and 10 rods north of Hosea Hulbutt's; east including Daniel Meeker and 10 rods north of John Mills' house and 20 rods south of Elisha Bradley's.

*Bulkley's District*

Bounded to said 20 rods south of Elisha Bradley's; south to Fairfield line and 10 rods north of Eli Wakeman's, including the road to Joseph Goram's and 20 rods north of Isaac Webb's; and a line due east to Burr's River north of Thomas Wheeler's.

*Burr's District*

Bounded south to a bound 20 rods north of Isaac Webb's; 10 rods north of Dr. Hulbutt's to Great Brook north of Zalmon Price's and Seth Lyon's; east to Cricket Brook and 20 rods north of Eben Burr's running east to said Cricket Brook including Stephen Hull dec'd and Walter Hull.

*Banks' District*

Bounded south to a brook below Elijah Banks' and 20 rods north of Daniel Hull's, running east to country road and south of Joseph Lyon's 20 rods including Jesse Lyon; 20 rods south of Abijah Merwin's; north to a brook north of Gershom Banks.

*Sherwood's District*

Bounded to a bound 20 rods south of Daniel Banks'; 40 rods south of Joseph Lyon's; east to Great Brook and Capt. Bradley's house; 20 rods north of John Bradley's and taking the country road to Weston and run to Sturges Highway and Eben Smith's.

*Deerfield District*

Bounded south 30 rods north of Eben Burr's; west to the country road and 30 rods north of John Bradley's and 10 rods east of Robert Scudder's.

*Hoyt's Hill District. (Hoyden's Hill)*

Bounded south on Cricket Brook and northwesterly to a bound 10 rods east of Robert Scudder's.

Dated March 13, 1797.

Eben Hill	Lewis Goodsell
John Albert	David Hubbell
Jonathan Banks	Abel Wakeman
Hull Bradley	

a committee to lay out these districts.

Those districts remained the same for nearly a hundred years. Where the bounds are not mentioned on one or more sides of a district we assume, that the district extends to the adjoining parish or town. The 1867 map included in this work shows these districts extremely well.

These records are available at the Pequot Library. The School Bill for the Winter 1812 and 1813—Hulls Farms School —

The following are the expenses during the six months for repairs, wood, and tuition.



Tuition six months at \$16 per month .....	\$ 90.00
Repairs at School House for Plants, lime, etc. ....	7.05
Wood at \$3 for ½ cord amounts to 40 dollars and 3/100—\$7 worth left .....	40.32
	<hr/> 143.37
Whole amount of School money .....	32.29
Remained .....	<hr/> \$110.98

Green Field School money .....	\$ 15.51
Green's Farms School money .....	16.88
Total .....	<hr/> \$ 32.39

School commenced the 10th Nov. 1812 and continued until April 26th 1813.

Names	No. Days	Due		Credit	Due	
		Ded.	Cr.		Cr. not Ded.	
John Alvord	96	\$ 2.40	.00	\$ 2.40		
N. Banks ....	128	3.20	5.50	0.00	Due N. Banks	
					\$2.30/100	
E. Banks ....	108	2.70	2.53	0.17		
J. Banks ....	95	2.37	0.00	2.37		
J. Banks ....	63	1.57	0.00	1.57		
David Craft	94	2.35	0.00	2.35	Due the	
					teachers on this	
Sam. Craft..	21	0.52	0.00	.52	Bills \$33.29	
S. Davis ....	11	0.28	0.00	0.28		
Corn. Hull ..	207	5.17	0.00	5.17		
W. B. Hull	117	2.92	0.00	2.92		
Lyman Hull	180	4.50	4.10	0.40		
Patty Hull ..	173	4.32	1.00	3.32	Patty Hull	
					paid on	
S. Meeker ..	329	8.22	2.75	5.47	this bill \$3	
B. Middlebrk	38	0.95	0.00	0.95		
W. Sherw'd	408	11.70	13.47	0.00	Due	
					W. Sherwood	
					\$1.77	
					<hr/> Rec'd—\$4.07	
S. Sherwo'd	54	3.85	0.00	3.85		
D. Sherwo'd	15	0.37	0.00	.37		
S. Sherwo'd	75	1.88	0.00	1.88	\$37.36	
J. Redfield ..	92	2.30	0.00	2.30	4.07	
Whole No.						
of days ....	2507	\$62.64	\$29.35	\$37.36	\$33.29	

No. on the other side	1943	Cents	Days	Cent Mills	
Total ....	4450	\$110.98	1 Av.	2.5=	\$37.36 Cr/Ded.
					29.35 Cr.
					<hr/> 66.71 Amt.
Two cents and a half per Day ....					4.07
					<hr/> \$62.64

W. A. Sherwood }  
has paid me up } A true account with  
on the other side } errors excepted.  
Jesup Alvord

(For full names see bottom of page 177)

Hull Sherwood recorded this on October 29, 1812—"In the evening there was a School Meeting at Mill Plain. Hezekiah Brick being put in as teacher for \$15 per month".

During that period the School Visitors number was reduced first to 5 and then to 4. They received \$1 per day remuneration and "their dining expenses" while they were on school business in the First Located Society and 50¢ per visit in the Greenfield district. For example, David Hill for his autumn visiting of three schools received \$1.50 in 1804 and Lewis Goodsell received \$1.00 for his autumn visiting of two schools.

The Clerk of the Greenfield School Society received \$1.00 a year for his services. For 1802, 1803, 1804 his "salary" was \$3.00 for keeping the records.

The Visitors not only "visited" the schools to see that the children learned their lessons, but were also required to "inspect" or "examine" the teacher as well. They also received 50¢ for each experience of that kind. A teaching license was necessary and one of these is included in the picture section.

Money for financing the schools, was secured in several ways. Again in the Greenfield Society records, one reads where \$6.89 was received from D. Hubbell for 10½ bushels of rye which he grew on the School lot and cash from "Mr. Bronson for use of the School lot in the year 1805—\$12". This helped to swell the treasury.

The first Located School Society in 1830 took on another responsibility when they had charge of the cemetery. Receipts were to go to the schools.

Voted that a committee consisting of 6 people be appointed, one from each school district, to devise for the publick good and convenience of said Society a suitable place for a burying ground (a grave yard). The Committee members were: David Wilson, Elijah Bibbins, Gershom Sturges, Abel Beers, Walter Perry, Charles Mills.

One and only one place was to be purchased for the burying ground.

They also "voted to buy the place owned by Mrs. Sarah Taylor near the center of Town provided it can be bought for \$600. To Lay out same in lots and number for the better convenience of families".  
and later on the

Committee was also ordered to secure a burying ground in the south westerly part of this society.

Lots were carefully laid out in the two cemeteries, a special place set aside for the clergymen and their families, another area for "strangers" and it was decided "to let out grounds to be mowed as meadows". Three dollars was set as a minimum price for any lot and on January 15, 1831 at 2 p.m. at the Schoolhouse, lots were offered at auction.

The greater part of the meeting records from then (1831) deal with affairs of the cemeteries. J. D. Wilson and Sturges Thorp were appointed "a committee to superintend the burying grounds and to let the same—for mowing and pasturing—sheep and calves only". In 1833 Charles Bennett was selected as superintendent of the East Burying Ground and Samuel P. Beers the superintendent of the West Burying Ground.



The parson was allowed to use either of the Burying Grounds "for pasture for any horse, cow, sheep or other creature whatsoever" and the elders growing there were to be bruised or beaten down each season. The wild parsnips had to be dug up too. In 1856, the Town Records show that a vote was passed stating "that the Committee appointed by the School Society for the purpose of enlarging the West Burying Ground be continued".

Each year the committees were appointed to look after the schools but other than their names the record gives little clue as to the way these responsibilities were carried forth. Each district committee, we believe, carried out the actual details involved in their own district and this group served as general overseer.

On November 7, 1831 a committee was appointed to locate and select a suitable place for the erection of a schoolhouse in Black Rock—containing nine rods of ground in all. Forty dollars was set aside for the land and three hundred dollars for the Schoolhouse.

Of course there was also the Greens Farms School Society and the Stratfield School Society but unfortunately these records have been lost over the years and are not available for recording here.

The annual report of the Board of School Visitors of about 1840 covers the activities of this group quite thoroughly and is included here.

#### *About 1840*

The Board of Visitors of the First School Society of Fairfield herewith present to the Society their Annual Report as the Law directs. All the Schools during the year have been kept by teachers approved after due examination as the law directs and with one or two exceptions, the period of schooling in the various schools extended from nine to eleven months. The male teachers at Fairfield and Southport have been employed both summer and winter and at Southport the same gentleman has been employed for several years. The visitors strongly recommend that teachers who have proved on trial to be competent and successful should be continued in the same school as long as possible. Great evils result from a constant change of Teachers which are too obvious to need enumerating here. We have visited the various schools at the opening and close of each session as the Law directs. We have not as yet however made our final visitation of the Summer Schools. So far as we have been able to judge the condition of the schools as to order, diligence and proficiency is respectable and quite in advance of what it has been in some former periods. Yet we are of opinion that there is a large margin for improvement. Some of our schools need teachers of a high-

er order than they have yet enjoyed. Some of our Schoolhouses are destitute of those out buildings which are so essential to the decency, health, good manners and good morals of the pupils. Nearly all have their desks so arranged, that the scholars have their backs turned away from the Teachers which is a serious hindrance to the government of the schools. They are so constructed that the use of them by females is awkward and indelicate. In some of the schoolhouses likewise they have been hewed and haggled till they are utterly unfit for use, and ought immediately to be renovated. Your committee will add that with scarcely an exception the schoolhouses are badly ventilated in the winter season, and that the teachers and pupils suffer in mind and body from constant respiration of bad air, greater evils than is generally suspected. This evil would be remedied by having them warmed by the introduction of fresh heated air from without, and by a flue properly constructed for drawing off the bad air without the building.

All which is respectfully submitted,

Lyman H. Atwater  
by order of the School Visitors

Each of the several School Societies had been carrying on in their own way, giving the children in their district a form of learning.

The Town Meeting minutes show no records of school activities from 1786 until 1837 when it was recorded that the town was to receive some money from the United States Congress. This is the first activity shown.

#### *Town Meeting — February 3, 1837*

Resolved—That this town will receive its proportion of the money which is or may be deposited with this State by the United States in pursuance of the Act of Congress untitled "An act to regulate the deposits of the public money" and on the terms and conditions specified in the Act of this State entitled "An Act accepting the deposits of a portion of the surplus fund belonging to the United States providing for the safe keeping thereof and appropriating the interest accruing herefrom for the promotion of education and other purposes and that the said town will in all respects comply with the stipulations contained in said Act.

In March 1837 it was voted —

That there be an agent appointed to receive from the several School Society Committees a certified list of the number of scholars of each School Society in this Town by the first Monday of November in each year. It apportioning the money among and for said Societies, and draw an order in favor of the Several School Societies treasuries on the Treasures of the Town Deposit for the inspectors' portions of said School Societies due them out of said town deposit fund. Jeremiah Sturges Esq. to be the agent for the above.

The financial report of these funds was:



On February 17, 1837—	
Rec'd from the U. S. Surplus Revenue	\$2920.68
On April 14, 1837 —	
Rec'd from the U. S. Surplus Revenue	2921.81
On July 11, 1837 —	
Rec'd from the U. S. Surplus Revenue	2920.68
	<hr/>
	\$8763.17

The interest on these monies was to be divided in half. The first half going to the School Societies and the other half to the Town Treasury.

Interest on Fund—Oct. 1, 1837 .....	\$192.27
Disposition of this interest follows:	
Paid by order of Jeremiah Sturges to the Treasurer of the first located School Society in Fairfield .....	\$ 49.40
—to the Greens Farms School Society	14.72
—to the Stratfield School Society .....	16.01
—to the Greenfield School Society .....	16.01
—to the Town Treasury .....	96.13
	<hr/>
	\$192.27

This Fund in the Town Treasury was called the Town Deposit Fund and was loaned out to the Townspeople at a special interest rate.

In 1848, the State of Connecticut allowed \$1.44 to the school district for every child enumerated between the age of 4 and 14 years of age.

In 1853 it was voted that the various School Societies would get money from this Fund according to the enumeration of children between the age of 4 and 16 on the first day of January 1855.

In 1847 there were just three School Visitors in the First Located Society.

In 1853 a request was made to the Town Meeting to have the upper room of the Court House as a School Room and in 1855 at a special meeting it was voted to grant this permission—the room to be used as a “Female Seminary”.

The actual vote at the Town Meeting on September 15, 1855 was:

Resolved—That the use of the upper part of the Town House be given to John Gould, James B. Thompson, I. Jillett, Henry J. Beers and Charles K. Crocker, trustees for the Fairfield Female Seminary to be used for Educational purposes during the pleasure of the Town provided that the said trustees shall keep the building insured for the benefit of the Town to the amount of one thousand dollars the Policy to be made in the name of the Treasurer of the Town of Fairfield and that said Trustees keep the building in good condition. Voted in the affirmative.

That vote was rescinded at a Town Meeting on November 17, 1869.

Resolution—Offered and passed rescinding a vote

passed September 15, 1855 giving to John Gould, James B. Thompson, Henry J. Beers and others, Trustees for the Fairfield Female Seminary, the upper part of the Town House for Educational purposes.

One wonders if there was any connection between this Seminary and the one which Miss Allen superintended in 1825. This brochure hangs in the Fairfield Historical Society.

Female Seminary at Fairfield (Connecticut)

Under the superintendence of Miss Allen on introducing this School to the public, some brief statement of the teacher's views may be necessary. It is not her object to make superficial scholars, but useful and accomplished women: not to burden the memory, while the understanding remains torpid; but to elicit thought and excite inquiry on every subject which may engage the attention of her pupils. The course of studies pursued is designed to elevate the intellectual character, to establish female worth on a solid basis, and to qualify the mind for a proper discharge of the various duties of life. Conscious that religious principles and virtuous habits are the foundation of all happiness and respectability, the Principal of this school will be solicitous to check the growth of evil passions and counteract bad habits, rather by rectifying the internal principle, than influencing the external deportment.

The summer term will commence on the first Tuesday of May next. As the number of pupils will be limited, persons who design to place their daughters at this seminary, are requested to make immediate application.

Terms of tuition from \$4 to \$5 per quarter, Board \$1.50 per week—beds and bedding found by the pupils. Washing, firewood and candles extra charges. Or \$2 per week, beds and washing included.

The character and standing of the School may be ascertained by reference to any of the following gentlemen of Fairfield:

Hon. Roger M. Sherman	Eben Dimon, Esq.
Samuel Rowland, Esq.	Hon. David Hill
David Judson, Esq.	Rev. Nathaniel Hewit
Gold Silliman, Esq.	

68 South St., N. Y.

N.B.—Fairfield lies upon Long Island Sound, and is one of the most pleasant and healthy villages in the State, and the mail from New York arrives there every evening, Sundays excepted.

April 1825

On December 10, 1856, it was voted to appoint the School Visitors as the existing School Law required—6 to be appointed.

Dr. I. T. Denison	} School Visitors for 3 years
Rev. I. S. Purdy	
Rev. William I. Jennings	} School Visitors for 2 years
Rev. T. B. Sturges	
Rev. Christopher Leffingwell	} School Visitors for 1 year
Sherwood Sterling	

The records of one of the six districts established in the First Located School Society—the



Jennings Woods district for 1856-1893 are at the Fairfield Historical Society and are most interesting and really give a picture of the thinking of that particular period. This was a one room school like the others.

The minutes for November 10, 1856 open the book and follow here:

Nov. 10, 1856 —

Meeting called to order. Moderator chosen. The warning read and accepted. We agree to lay a new floor, writing desks and seats, the seats to be lowered three inches and seated the same as at present and do any other necessary repairs and then Albert W. Knapp made a motion to the effect, seconded by Seeley Bibbins carried by a unanimous vote. It is moved and accepted that this business be left with the Committee to do. It is moved and accepted that the wood to furnish the school the coming year should be set up at auction. The wood to be hard wood, one third hickory, bid off by Alden Wilson at \$9.00. There is also a motion passed that we have a female teacher wages not to exceed \$3.25 per week. J. B. Wilson, Clerk protem.

The Selectmen were ordered to alter and define the school district lines later that same year and their established district is also recorded.

We the Selectmen of the Town of Fairfield appointed to alter and define the school district lines and limits of the Town of Fairfield do establish the following as the limits of the Jennings Woods District School. Beginning at the Court Bridge which crosses Mill River in Wilson's Highway near the dwelling of Morris Gould, thence following said river south westerly to the head of Pequonne Road near Hull's Bridge. Thence eastwardly following said road to Osborne Road, thence south on the Osborne Road to the mouth of the cross road leading by the house of Anson Nichols which last mentioned road is a line of the District to the Pequonne Road thence south and east on Pequonne Road to the Center of the Black Rock Turnpike. Thence a direct course eastwardly to the Parish line near the eastern corner of Thomas McCann's Homestead to the center of the North and South road, thence north on the Parish line along the last named road to the point of the long lots and thence taking the Eastern line of Silliman's Long Lots up to the Eastern corner of the seventeen acre Lot so called where there is now standing a small walnut tree. Thence westerly in a direct line to the north end of the bridge near Andrew Bulkley. Thence westerly on a line at right angles to the longest line to Wilson's Highway. Thence south on Wilson's Highway to the before mentioned Court Bridge. Fairfield, Dec. 19, 1856, Robert Wilson, Simon Sherwood, Selectmen.

At later meetings there were many notes of interest. A few were:

April 1857—Motion made to hire a teacher for 20 weeks or more if she gives good satisfaction if not to leave at a vote of the district. The teacher's name was Miss Eleanor Wheeler and her wages

amounted to \$2.50 a week. (I presume that she continued in service for I found no report of her dismissal.)

Oct. 22, 1858—Meeting of Jennings Woods District School called to order, Moderator chosen. Warning read and accepted. After proceeding with the meeting awhile and a number of votes taken, there was a motion made and seconded to lay the minutes of said meeting thus far on the table and this was passed in the affirmative.

Motion made and seconded that we leave the business of hiring a teacher with the Committee either male or female as he thinks proper, passed in the affirmative.

Motion made and seconded that we limit the committee on wages, a male teacher not to exceed \$24 a month and female \$18 and board themselves, passed in the affirmative.

Motion made and seconded the wood be set up at auction at the lowest bidder, passed in the affirmative.

Motion made and seconded the moderator be auctioneer, tis a vote.

Wood sold at \$10 for the season furnished by Alden Wilson Jr., if soft wood all season, if hard one half.

Motion made and seconded that we adjourn, passed in the affirmative.

James B. Wilson,  
Clerk.

The teacher at that time boarded "around" probably with a member of the School Committee for the district. A later meeting shows:

Meeting called to order. Oliver Beers chosen moderator, the warning read and accepted. Motion that we hire a teacher and for her to Board around. Passed in the affirmative. Motion made and accepted that the teacher shall come from out of the district.

Motion made and accepted instructing the committee to hire a teacher and the wages not to exceed \$1.50 per week and board.

Motion made and accepted that we appropriate a share of the Publick money to pay school bills of the past two seasons.

James B. Wilson,  
Clerk—Jennings Woods School

The hiring of the teacher for the Fall, Winter and Summer seasons along with the securing of the necessary wood for the winter were the main items of business year after year.

The minutes for the September 27, 1861 meeting held at 7 p.m. follow:

Sept. 27, 1861 at 7 P.M.

Meeting called to order. F. Austin chosen chairman. Warning read and accepted. Augustus Nichols elected Committee.

1. Resolved the wood bill shall be made out on last Winter's term, Richard B. Jennings, collector and Treasurer, James Burr Wilson, clerk.
2. Resolved that we hire a male teacher and if the



price exceeds \$20 per month, then not more than 5 months.

3. Resolved that one third of the Public money be reserved in the treasury for the summer term.
4. Resolved that the wood be all hard wood and one half of it seasoned delivered in the entry for one year \$11.75 furnished by A. W. Knapp.
5. Resolved that the Committee put the house in good order.

The teachers for the Summer term were generally women, the classes were smaller and the salaries too were less. \$11 was the amount paid one year.

The second major item of interest—the winter's wood had to be cut, split and piled in the entry of the school and be half hard wood all for \$8.75 or \$11.75 or \$12.

In order to make ends meet budgetwise one year, the folks in Jennings Woods District voted to "lay a tax of \$1.75 on each scholar"—the committee was to make out bills of \$1.75 to each scholar against the Parents or Guardians and cause the same to be collected. Another year the tax was \$2.50 on each scholar. In 1869 a 21½ mill tax on a dollar was levied on the inhabitants of the Jennings Woods district—a real school tax as it is known today. The Collector was to have \$6 for the collecting that year.

That same year arrangements were made to have a coal stove for the Jennings Woods school and coal (2 tons) was secured to burn in it.

It was also decided not to consider changing the site of the Jennings Woods schoolhouse. Ballots in the affirmative 15, Ballots in the negative 16! That must have been an exciting evening!

The discussion on relocating the schoolhouse went on for years. In 1875 they voted to consider the propriety of digging a well, they voted against repairing the schoolhouse, they voted against moving the schoolhouse, and voted against building a new schoolhouse. They voted in favor of letting the schoolhouse stand where it was. They also agreed upon George Rodgers and J. Burr Wilson as members of a Building Committee. The same year, and a meeting later, they voted to reconsider all of the business of the previous meeting and also appointed a committee to determine the cost of repairs or of a new school. At the next meeting, they decided to repair the building for a sum not to exceed \$320. Two meetings later it was decided to choose a moving committee and the vote to have the schoolhouse on a lot on the north side of the road and to place the school on the southwest corner of the lot of Mr. Alden Wilson was in the affirma-

tive—17 yes votes being recorded and 5 being in the negative. The cost of the lot was \$100 and a well was also planned. The seats and old timbers were to be sold at auction. A fence of pine rails and boards and locust posts was also planned at the cost of \$2.75.

The new building was to be 25' x 38' with a 12 foot front and the bid was awarded to Uriah Perry for \$756. A 17 mill tax on all rateable personal real estate of the district was laid. The Collector was to receive \$28 for his services.

Notices of the School Meetings were posted on the front door of the Schoolhouse. This was the Jennings Woods district school but could we find the records of the other districts, they would read in a very similar manner.

Let us now move into some other materials which have been preserved over the years.

The School district near the Bridgeport line known as the South Division School District in 1860 was under constant scrutiny and ten years later it finally came up for a vote.

In 1864 the Fairfield School Society was defined as

Fairfield Middle  
Mill Plain  
Black Rock  
Holland Hill  
Jennings Woods  
Southport

The only name change from 1796 when the districts were established was Mill River being called Southport.

In 1868 the Taxes were divided into three parts. 8 mills for regular expenses of Town; 1 mill for schools; ½ mill for highways. The Tax collector received \$350 a year for his task in that office.

That same year this editorial appeared in the Southport Chronicle in May, 1868:

#### OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Mitchell, in his Geography, twenty years ago, says that "Connecticut is celebrated for her common schools", and that "the school fund is larger in proportion to the population than that of any other State". In school-boy days, pouring over our geography lesson, striving to commit it to memory, we remember of feeling proud to belong to Connecticut—proud of being a school boy in a State noted above its fellow States for its liberal educational privileges.

Would Mitchell, (if living) writing a revised edition, now speak so well of us? For with all our boasted advantage of large school fund, our public schools are not—what they ought to be—free. In this respect, Massachusetts and Rhode Island are far ahead of us. The boy and girl so fortunate as to



reside in those States, whether they have the misfortune to be poor—or to be rich, can attend the public school without charge. No collector there as here meets you every six months with a “rate bill”, dunning you for so many “day’s tuition” at so much “per day”; collecting generally about half, or little more, of the bills on his book, and marking the others “uncollectible”, to be paid by the town.

If we have not been misinformed, our Legislature, at a session not long since, left it discretionary with each school district, whether or not its teacher should be paid by direct tax. If such be the case, the sooner our district adopts the new plan the better, and take the town of Fairfield through, we believe the taxes would not be much, if any, higher than at present. Of course we would get the benefit of our State and local funds the same as now.

We lay a tax to build bridges—to keep the roads in order—to support the paupers—why not for the far more noble purpose of educating the young? Ignorance goes arm in arm with crime; instruct those who are to be the future citizens, and you save many of them from crime. The more we are taxed on the one hand for the support of schools, the less we shall be taxed on the other for the maintenance of jails.

Some of the wealthy men of the village might object to “schooling other folk’s children”, but it is cheaper, and far better policy, to “school” the children of your poorer neighbors, than to have them one of these days burning your barns or otherwise maliciously injuring you, through ignorance.

The Chronicle also carried these School items during that year:

#### *May 1868*

The School house in Fairfield has been condemned, and a new one will probably be built on the Green.

#### *August 1868*

##### *Southport District School*

The Southport Public Schools closed on Friday, July 24th. The children, we understand, will have a six weeks’ vacation. The school during the past term under the administration of Mr. E. B. Smith of Norwalk and Miss Mary Henshaw of Southport, has constantly and rapidly improved, and their devoted attention to their duties has secured for them the respect and confidence of our people.

#### *December 15, 1868*

The people of Mill Plain have their new school house nearly completed. It is a fine large building of the Gothic Style and will cost about \$2500.

In 1870, at the annual Town Meeting held on Election Day—October 3—when reports of all town officers and committees were read and those assembled decreed a “vote of thanks be tendered the school visitors for their prompt and faithful discharge of their duties”. These servants of the Town along with other Committee members have been and are all too seldom recognized for their countless hours of service given willingly to their

fellow men. This was the first such note of recognition which one finds as one reads the Town Records.

In December of that year, another honor came to Fairfield in the form of a Teachers Institute for Teachers from all over the State. This was sponsored by the Connecticut Board of Education and the official announcement by Mr. Northrop, Secretary of the State Board is very enthusiastically presented.

#### *Teachers’ Institute*

A State Teachers’ Institute will be held at Southport, beginning at 7:30, Thursday evening, December 8th and closing Saturday under the supervision of the Secretary of the Board of Education, aided by F. F. Barrows of Hartford, N. C. Pond of Danbury, Profs. D. C. Gilman, W. H. Brewer, and Louis Bail of Yale College and others.

The time of the session and the topics discussed, will have special reference to the wants of our winter schools. All the exercises are open to the public. Teachers and School Visitors will be entertained without charge.

School Officers, and all friends of the Common Schools are respectfully and earnestly requested to circulate among teachers, and to facilitate their attendance. It is recommended that the schools be closed in the belief that the improved methods of teaching suggested will more than compensate for the time given to the teachers. School Officers are cordially invited to be present.

No effort will be spared to render all the exercises both attractive and useful. They will have special reference to the work of the school room, and can hardly fail to be suggestive to all earnest teachers in attendance, as the lecturers are practical and experienced educators. There has been of late a gratifying increase of interest and numbers at these meetings.

FREE RETURN TICKETS will be issued by the undersigned, to those in attendance who come over the New York and New Haven Railroad.

B. G. Northrop  
Secretary of the Board of Education  
New Haven, November 28, 1870.

The Southport Chronicle carried this article the day before the meetings:

#### *Teachers’ Institute—Dec. 7, 1870*

The Teachers’ Institute to be held in Southport this week, bids fair to be a great success. We have not before us, a full list of the meetings which will be held. There will be sessions in the morning, afternoon and evening of Friday and Saturday morning. All of these meetings will be made very interesting to the general public. It has been decided to hold the meetings in the Congregational Church. On Thursday evening a lecture will be delivered by Professor Northrop, and on Friday evening Dr. Daggett will lecture. As will be seen in another part of this paper, several other distinguished gentlemen will participate in the exercises.



A large number of strangers will probably remain in Southport at least one night. Our citizens have cheerfully thrown open their houses for the accommodation of such.

and this article after the meetings were held:

### *The Teachers' Institute*

In accordance with previous announcement a State Teachers' Institute was held in Southport last week. We had supposed that there might possibly be some thirty teachers in attendance from out of town, for whom provision would have to be made during Friday; we hardly expected any one on Thursday, as the exercises only commenced in the evening of that day.

The committee who had charge of the arrangements, in order to be on the safe side, secured accommodations for over fifty strangers. It is well they did so, for about forty teachers "put in an appearance" on Thursday, and on Friday crowds began to come in on the several trains, soon swelling the number to one hundred sixty-five. These were teachers and school officers. There were many other strangers in attendance besides these. But our citizens were found equal to the emergency. So interested did they become in the exercises, and so greatly were their hearts warmed toward the cause of education, that they freely opened their houses for the accommodation of the strangers, and it was soon discovered that there was room enough and to spare.

The exercises commenced on Thursday evening with lectures by Hon. Mr. Cleveland and Rev. F. Russell, the distinguished elocutionist. We shall not comment on any of the speeches, or lectures. They were all good. Everything about the institute was good. It is enough to say that the large audiences in attendance on all the exercises were highly delighted, entertained and profited thereby.

On Friday A.M., the time was occupied by Prof. Russell and by Prof. Thatcher, of Yale. In the afternoon Prof. Gilman, of Yale, delivered a lecture on "Our Dominion and how we obtained it", and on "The Geography of the Rhine". Mr. Pond, of Danbury followed on the subject of "Grammar".

In the evening of Friday the Congregational Church, in which the meetings were held, was densely packed, and although the aisles were lined with seats, many were unable to find even standing room. On this occasion, Rev. Dr. Daggett, of New Haven, delivered a lecture on "Manner"; then followed readings by Prof. Bailey, of Yale. The audience was very enthusiastic and gave many evidences of their thorough appreciation of both the lecture and the readings.

Saturday was occupied with half-hour lectures on various subjects, by Professors Camp, of New Haven, Carleton of New Britain, Whitmore of New Haven, Bail of Yale, Barrows of Hartford, and other prominent educators. The exercises closed at 5 p.m.

We cannot believe that the Hon. Secretary Northrop has ever held a more successful Institute.

We must not omit to speak of Miss Goldthwaite, of New Britain, who presided so effectively at the

organ, and who demonstrated, with much grace, a very favorable method of teaching accuracy and celerity in the fundamental principles of Arithmetic.

Mr. Northrop improved every moment, when there was a pause in the exercises, in throwing out valuable hints to the teachers.

Our citizens rejoice that the Institute was held here. We think we derived more benefit from the exercises than the teachers did.

Incalculable good must result from holding these Institutes throughout the State. They tend to awaken a great interest in the minds of the people in the matter of Common School Education, and if the people are aroused the cause of education will surely prosper.

Previously one read the Editorial of the Southport Chronicle about the local schools not being free. Two years later we find the Call of a Town Meeting for Saturday, January 14, 1871 presenting the following—"To consider the propriety of raising sufficient money to make the Public Schools of this Town *free* for a period of (30) thirty weeks in the year ending September 1, 1870 as per recommendation of the Board of School Visitors".

"Also to consider the propriety of giving instructions to the Board of School Visitors to divide the sum of Six Thousand dollars appropriated for public schools on Monday the 3rd day of October 1870 equally among the children between the ages of 4 and 16 years giving to each district the amount called for by its number of children between the ages mentioned above".

At the meeting held on Saturday, January 14, 1871, the following resolution was then offered by Samuel Morehouse, Esq. —

Resolved that the Board of School Visitors and Selectmen be and they are hereby instructed to pay to each school district, out of the \$6000 appropriated for the support of the schools at the annual Town Meeting, a sum sufficient to pay the expenses of its district school for a period of thirty weeks as required by law and to divide the remainder of \$6000 to each district per capita, according to the number of its children between the ages of 4 and 16, and nothing in this resolution is to be understood to conflict with the power of the school visitors or Selectmen to decide respecting the unnecessary and extravagant cost of any school—which resolution was adopted.

The following resolution was then offered by James S. Mott Esq. —

Resolved that an amount be appropriated sufficient to make the Public Schools of the Town free for a period of 30 weeks ending September 1, 1870. Which resolution was adopted.

Thus at last all were welcomed at the district



school and schools were paid for by the general tax money rather than families being taxed directly for school attendance.

The length of time for the schools to be open had been made mandatory in every district and this was to be extended in the very near future.

On October 2, 1871 on motion "it was resolved that the schools of the Town be kept open for a period of thirty-four weeks instead of thirty weeks".

Thus the Town as a whole was beginning to take on once again its responsibility for the total school picture of all districts.

On September 14, 1872, a Town Meeting was held for school business alone. At this meeting a vote rejected the following resolution —

Resolved—That the School Visitors be authorized to employ teachers for the several District Schools of the Town for a period of 40 weeks in each year in accordance with Section 26, Chapter 3, of the new School law.

The next month this report of School business appears —

*Town Meeting—Oct. 7, 1872*

Report of School Visitors again taken up and after much discussion the following resolution was offered by Rev. E. L. Wells and adopted—Resolved that the report of the School Visitors be accepted and its recommendations be adopted—resolution adopted.

Moved and seconded that the schools of the several Districts in the Town be kept for 40 weeks in a year exclusive of all vacations subject to the Board of School Visitors—resolution carried.

Resolved that the town appropriate \$7000 for schools up to August 1873—Carried.

Voted that the number of School Visitors be six—Ordered, that the Town Treasurer be authorized to pay on the order of the School Visitors, such deficiency as exists in the different school districts at the present time for expenses incurred in keeping schools open more than 34 weeks.

In 1875 rather than naming just School Visitors these people were chosen to the "Board of School Visitors".

The following year \$7500 was requested for schools. This amount was rejected and a sum of \$7000 decided upon as it was in 1875.

School Districts at that time—1875—were:

- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Fairfield       | Bulkleys       |
| Southport       | Jennings Woods |
| Mill Plain      | Toilsome Hill  |
| Greenfield Hill | Hoydens Hill   |
| Holland Hill    | Hulls Farms    |
| Banks North     | North          |
| Banks South     | Deerfield      |
| Burrs           |                |

The accounting of the School Fund for 1875 show how the Districts used their money.

1875

November 20—Mill Plain School District,		
Supplies to school house .....	\$ 79.15	
Teachers wages .....	315.00	
Janitors .....	15.00	\$409.15
November 20—Southport School District,		
Cleaning school house .....	9.50	
Supplies furnished school house	208.79	
Mr. Banks teacher's wages,		
3 months .....	210.00	
Miss Allis teacher's wages,		
3 months .....	150.00	
Miss Henshaw teacher's wages,		
3 months .....	165.00	
John Anderson, janitor .....	37.50	780.79
November 22—Middle School District (Fairfield)		
Teachers salaries, fall term .....	540.00	
Mrs. Vanderbeck, janitor .....	16.50	
Coal, \$83.33; Incidentals,		
\$17.15 .....	100.48	656.98
November 22—Toilsome Hill District,		
Imogene Johnson, teacher's sal.	105.00	
Incidentals .....	11.52	116.52
November 23—H. B. Smith, serv-		
ices 5 days as school visitor ....		15.00
November 24—Deerfield School District,		
Teachers wages .....	105.00	
Incidentals .....	20.50	125.50
November 24—Hoyden's Hill		
School District, F. A. Smith,		
teacher's salary .....		90.00
November 26—Burr's District,		
Adeline Alfred, teacher's salary	120.00	
Incidentals .....	24.10	144.10
November 27—Banks South District,		
Sarah M. Smith, teacher's sal.	105.00	
Incidentals .....	14.00	119.00
November 27—North School District,		
Augusta Hall, teacher's salary,		
3 months .....		96.00
November 29—Holland Hill School District,		
Shingling school house .....	35.00	
12 months' interest .....	2.45	
Teachers' wages .....	120.00	
Incidentals .....	30.78	188.23
November 29—Bulkley's School		
District, teacher's wages .....		105.00
December 11—Greenfield Centre School District,		
Teacher's wages .....	150.00	
Incidentals .....	28.81	178.81
December 23—Banks' North		
School District, teacher's wages,		
3 months .....		105.00
1876		
January 6—Bulkley's School District,		
Incidentals .....		16.68
January 15—Fairfield Woods School District,		
Incidentals .....		15.31



March 25—Fairfield-Middle School District,			
Teachers' wages,			
Mr. Whetmeyer, 4 months ..	400.00		
Miss Paul .....	180.00		
Miss Mayher .....	140.00		
Janitor, Mrs. Vanderbeck,			
16 weeks @ \$2.50 .....	40.00		
Bills, M. V. Woodward .....	32.30		
Incidentals .....	23.33	815.63	
March 28—Mill Plain School District,			
Teachers' wages, 4 months ....	420.00		
Janitor's wages, 4 months .....	20.00		
Insurance, \$13.50; Incidentals,			
\$38.73 .....	52.23	492.23	
March 28—Holland Hill School District,			
Teachers' wages .....	175.00		
Incidentals, \$15.95; Janitor,			
\$14 .....	29.95	204.95	
March 29—Southport School District,			
Teachers' wages, 4 months .....	700.00		
Janitor's wages, 4 months .....	50.00		
Incidentals .....	8.37	758.37	
March 31—Banks' South District,			
Teachers' wages, 4 months .....	140.00		
Incidentals .....	16.25	156.25	
March 29—Deerfield District,			
Teachers' wages, 4 months .....		140.00	
March 29—Toilsome Hill District,			
Teachers' wages, 15 weeks .....	150.00		
Incidentals .....	22.70	172.70	
March 29—Burr's District,			
Teachers' wages, 4 months .....	160.00		
Incidentals .....	4.25	164.25	
March 29—Fairfield Woods District,			
Teachers' wages .....	180.00		
Incidentals .....	34.50	214.50	
March 29—Bulkley's District			
Teachers' wages .....	140.00		
Incidentals .....	16.70	156.70	
March 29—Hoyden's Hill District,			
Teachers' wages, 4 months .....	140.00		
Incidentals .....	22.95	162.95	
March 29—Greenfield Hill District,			
Teachers' wages, 4 months .....	200.00		
Incidentals .....	15.86	215.86	
March 29—North School District,			
Teachers' wages, 4 months .....	180.00		
Incidentals .....	22.00	202.00	
April 29—Banks' North District,			
Teachers' wages, 4 months .....	140.00		
Incidentals .....	21.15	161.15	
May 1—Uriah Perry, Burr's District,			
For repairs on building, etc. ....	13.00		
For new floor .....	32.00	45.00	
July 1—Fairfield Middle School District,			
Teachers' wages —			
A. P. Whitmeyer .....	300.00		
Miss Paul .....	135.00		
Miss Maher .....	105.00		
Janitor .....	29.00		
Incidentals .....	18.65	587.65	

July 1—Burr's District,			
Teachers' wages .....	120.00		
Incidentals .....	3.00	123.00	
July 1—M. V. B. Dunham,			
Services as School Visitor .....		57.00	
July 1—J. Fred. Jennings,			
Services as School Visitor .....		57.00	
July 1—Southport School District,			
Teachers' wages —			
Mr. Smith .....	210.00		
Miss Allis .....	150.00		
Miss Henshaw .....	165.00		
Insurance .....	31.25		
Janitor .....	37.50		
S. B. Wakeman's bill .....	20.98		
Incidentals .....	56.52	671.25	
July 1—W. B. Meeker,			
Services as School Visitor .....		17.50	
July 1—Rev. J. K. Lombard,			
Services as School Visitor .....		65.00	
July 3—North School District,			
Teachers' wages, 12 weeks,			
at \$8 .....	96.00		
Incidentals .....	4.71	100.71	
July 3—Holland Hill District,			
Teachers' wages .....	120.00		
Incidentals .....	6.25	126.25	
July 5—Fairfield Woods District,			
Teachers' wages .....	90.00		
Incidentals .....	4.90	94.90	
July 6—Toilsome Hill District,			
Teachers' wages, 3 months			
at \$45 .....	135.00		
Incidentals .....	17.29	152.29	
July 7—Hoyden's Hill District,			
Teachers' wages, 3 months .....	90.00		
Incidentals .....	.75	90.75	
July 8—Deerfield School District,			
Teachers' wages, 3 months .....	75.00		
Incidentals .....	8.00	83.00	
July 14—Greenfield Hill District,			
Teachers' wages, 12 weeks .....	150.00		
Incidentals .....	28.05	178.05	
July 14—Mill Plain District,			
Teachers wages —			
Wm. H. Everett, 3 months ..	210.00		
Miss Ststot, 3 months .....	105.00		
Janitor .....	15.00		
Incidentals .....	7.93	337.93	
July 15—Rev. Jos. Warren,			
Services as School Visitor,			
16 days at \$3 .....		48.00	
July 17—Banks' South District,			
Teachers' wages, 3 months,			
at \$35.00 .....	105.00		
Incidentals .....	8.00	113.00	
July 21—Bulkley's District,			
Teachers' wages .....	105.00		
Incidentals .....	5.00	110.00	



August 7—Banks' North District, Teachers' wages, 3 months, at \$35 .....	105.00	
Incidentals, wood .....	2.00	107.00
August 7—Town of Westport, Support of joint school for 1875, 1876 .....		100.24
August 7—Samuel Morehouse, Services as School Visitor .....	4.50	
Total .....		\$10,448.63

These school districts were used for other lines of demarcation as well—the Surveyors of Highways were appointed for each school district in 1876. The Pound Keepers were appointed on the same basis in 1878.

Again in 1878, \$7000 was budgeted for Schools, but this was rejected and only \$6000 was allowed. However, we find that the following year it was necessary to vote an additional \$600 to meet the deficiency in the school account.

The annual report of the School Visitors dated October 1, 1880 gives a fine picture of not only the financial status of the schools of the period but many other details of value.

#### TOWN OF FAIRFIELD SCHOOL VISITORS REPORT, OCTOBER 1, 1880

The School Visitors of the Town of Fairfield present their annual report:

The number of School Districts are fourteen. The number of departments and of teachers during the past year was eighteen.

The average monthly salary of male teachers was \$45.60; that of female teachers was \$34.74. The previous year these salaries were: Male, \$49.65; females, \$35.52. The accompanying table will show, for each district, the number of children last enumerated, the average attendance for each term, the amounts received from the Town Treasury and the average cost of instruction for each child.

#### TABULAR STATEMENT

School Districts	Enum.		Aver.		Wages and Inci- dentals	Cost for each Child Enum.
	Jan. 1 1880	Fall	Win.	Sum.		
Southport .....	208	101	110	70	\$1,938.53	\$ 9.49
Fairfield, Middle .....	163	80	85	64	1,543.72	9.61
Mill Plain .....	132	71	64	57	1,272.48	9.80
Greenfield .....	27	30	31	28	689.52	26.00
Holland Hill .....	57	23	29	14	390.49	7.05
Banks' North ....	19	13	15	11	338.35	18.42
Banks' South ....	20	14	14	14	347.43	17.95
Burr's .....	37	22	23	18	392.02	10.91
Bulkley's .....	39	21	17	15	331.15	8.78
Fairfield Woods ..	36	20	24	14	365.48	10.47
Toilsome Hill ....	25	20	20	20	336.45	13.92
Hoyden's .....	30	16	18	14	328.00	11.32
North .....	53	24	23	18	360.00	7.01
Deerfield .....	18	11	10	13	279.20	16.15
Total .....	864	466	483	370	\$8,912.82	\$10.18

In finding the averages in the last column, the cost of visiting is included.

The expenses of the public schools for the year have been as follows:

Paid to District Treasurers .....	\$8,912.82
Paid to School Visitors .....	211.00
Paid to Town of Westport, tuition .....	118.24
Paid to City of Bridgeport, tuition .....	8.70
Total expenditures .....	\$9,250.76

The receipts have been:

From Town Treasury .....	\$6,130.82
From State .....	1,987.20
From Town Deposit Fund .....	387.02
From Easton, due .....	278.18
From Bridgeport, due .....	177.92

\$8,961.14

There has been paid from the Town Treasury, for schools, \$130.82, more than the appropriation, which was \$6,000. As an offset to this let it be remembered that in the last five years the sum of \$1,578.83 has been returned to the town from unexpended appropriations for schools. If for five successive years we have saved \$300 a year of our appropriations, a deficit of less than half that sum should not occasion criticism.

The total cost of the schools, as compared with that of the previous year, was less by \$399.51. This is by no means to be regarded as a matter for congratulation. The man who deprives his family of necessary food in order to save expense is regarded as neither economical nor humane. The town or district that practices a starvation policy upon its public schools is not a whit more worthy of honor than he. It is no economy to defer repairs upon a bridge until an accident results, followed by a suit for damages. No more is it economy to waste a child's time and ruin his habits of study by furnishing him a cheap and incompetent teacher. As a rule, poor pay will not command good teachers. As a rule, also, the average citizen does not know whether the quality of the work done in the public schools is good or bad, nor does he take any pains to find out. To limit one's interest in the matter to the question of cost is like employing an agent to manage a valuable business, caring little, and knowing less, about his character and capacity, so that he can be hired for small wages.

It is in view of such considerations as these that the School Visitors advocate a liberal, though not a lavish expenditure, for the support of schools.

The Joint Board of Selectmen and School Visitors, after making due allowance for the claims of economy, have fixed upon \$6,500 as the smallest appropriation which will maintain the public schools in anything like a respectable state of efficiency for the coming year.

The number of different scholars registered during the year was 810.

The number enumerated and the average attendance were a little higher than last year. Including amounts paid to other towns for tuition, and deducting amounts received from other towns for a like purpose, the average cost of our public schools for each child enumerated was \$10.18.

In behalf of the Board,

James K. Lombard, Secretary.



On June 5, 1882, the record shows —

We the Selectmen of the Town of Fairfield do set off to the Toilsome Hill School District that portion of the old South District running along the western and southern boundary of Stratfield Parish to Ash Creek so called, it being that part of the old South District left after the remaining portion had been taken into Bridgeport.

Signed: A. P. Wakeman  
Samuel Pike      Selectmen  
J. B. Morehouse    }

On October 3, 1887 it was voted to change Toilsome Hill School District to the name Stratfield School District. At the same meeting a vote on the question of consolidation of schools was also taken. The results:

—in favor of such consolidation    126  
—opposed to such consolidation      61

It was a year later before this question was brought before the citizens for further direction and consolidation made a real goal.

These articles from newspapers of the time help to further our viewing of school activities of the period —

1884 Middle School District —

Dr. Garlick elected, school committee  
William B. Glover, Treasurer  
Benjamin Betts, Clerk

Voted to hire two teachers, one at a salary of \$70 a month and one at a salary of \$40 a month.

1884 Officers of Mill Plain District School

D. H. Sherwood, Committee and Treasurer  
N. H. Sherwood, Clerk  
W. H. Smith, Collector

It was voted to paint the schoolhouse and fence and kalsomine the wall and put the building in proper shape.

The Mill Plain School picnic was held as usual on the last Friday afternoon of the term. By the number of children present we should judge Mill Plain had the largest school census in Town.

A number of Mill Plain children took part in the exhibition at the Town Hall, on Monday evening last.

1884—Principal Purple closed the Brush Pasture School last Friday by a fine reception tendered to the scholars and their friends. It was a very pleasant affair.

The Greenfield Public School closed a week ago Friday, the popular and faithful Mr. Rose of Bridgeport inviting the children to a feast of good things spread beneath a tent at Mrs. Hubbell's. In the evening, children of larger growth including committeemen A. R. T. Nichols dropped in and enjoyed a most social time until 10 o'clock.

July 1, 1884—Mr. W. Everett has been employed

as a teacher for the Mill Plain Public School. There is universal satisfaction, except among the children, but this is by no means a bad sign. Mr. Everett is a thorough disciplinarian, but he is also a kind man, and we have no doubt that after a few weeks the children will become as much attached to him as they were to Mr. Wilson—(James A. Wilson—licensed to preach at Stratfield Baptist Church. Served 6 years as Principal of Mill Plain School).

From the Fairfield Advertiser, August 28, 1884

Calendar for the District Schools of Fairfield for 1884-85.

First or Fall term begins Monday, Sept. 1, 1884 and terminates Dec. 19, 1884—16 weeks.

Christmas—New Year vacation.

Second and Winter term begins Monday, Jan. 5, 1885 and terminates Mar. 27, 1885—12 weeks.

Spring vacation of 1 week.

Third and Summer term begins Monday, April 6, 1885 and terminates Monday, June 25, 1885—12 weeks.

Summer vacation begins June 26th, 1885.

First and Fall term begins Monday, Sept. 7, 1885.

By vote of the town, schools ordered to be kept forty weeks.

J. J. Jones,  
Secretary, Board of Visitors.

In 1799 a State law had been enacted to encourage communities to establish schools for higher learning. The law read:

Be it further enacted that any School Society shall have Liberty by a vote of 2/3 of the Inhabitants present in any legal meeting warned for the purpose to institute a School of a higher order for the common benefit of the Society, the object of which shall be to perfect the Youth admitted therein in Reading, and Penmanship, to instruct them in the Rudiments of English Grammar, Composition, Arithmetic and Geography, or on particular desire in the Latin and Greek languages, also in the first principles of Religion and Morality, and in general to form them for usefulness in Society; And no pupil shall be admitted into said School except such as have passed through the ordinary Course of Instruction in the Common Schools, and shall have attained to such maturity in years and understanding as to be capable of Improvement in said school in the opinion of the Overseers, and shall by them or any of them be admitted therein; and if at any time it shall so happen that more pupils are admitted than can be accommodated or in said School together, they shall be instructed in such course and order as to give all equal opportunity.

This was the first thought of a Public High School. Fairfield did not move in this direction immediately, but long before most towns had felt this need, a few of the residents of Fairfield thought this advisable.

In 1885 there was a move in the air in Fairfield to establish a high school and the Board of





*Some Sherman School Pupils about 1884*

*Edwin B. Smith, Principal, far right; A Maria Wakeman, teacher at right. Fred A. Burr, former First Selectman, fifth from left in top row. The building was later moved to Reef Road and became a home. Annex used as Fire House. Now—1960—an Office building. This was the Middle District School.*



*Wilson's Mill School—1899*





Middle District School—Before 1890  
Lillian Sherwood, primary teacher; Frank H. Baldwin, upper grade teacher and principal.

<p>1893 Sherwood Banks as Treas in acct          Recd Check 86 3139 of Town Bank for 126.00          Recd Check 225.24          354.24</p>	<p>1893 North Banks North School District          Feb 8 as pr bill four months Trustees Ada B Burr 126.00          July 6 " " " " Ada B Burr 189.00          July 6 " " " " John Nichol          For wood and cutting 20.00          Janitor 10 months 10.00          Cleaning School house 3.00          Enumerating Scholars 1.00          Pencil 70          Chalk and Paper 60          Broom 30          2 bottles of Ink 80          Window glass and putting in same 1.00          Slate pencils 25          Cleaning clock 50          1 box of Matches 8          2 copy Books 14          Slate Pencil &amp; Paper 30          Lead Pencil 12          Justice Fees 25          354.24</p>
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Pages from Banks North School Account Book—1893



# FAIRFIELD

1867  
DISTRICT MAP



Note: S.Sh. means Shoe Shop—S. and G. Mill means Saw Mill and Grist Mill.





*Pequot School  
Southport District*

*Miss Kate Henshaw's class at Pequot School  
Southport—1892*

*Grace Purdy  
Eva Purdy  
Ella Smith  
Sarah Woodward  
Mary Hawes  
May Malone  
Ida May Conwell*

*May Mitchell  
John Doxey  
Fred Sherwood  
Isaac Hawes  
Grace Donahue  
Harry Disbrow  
Emeline Disbrow*

*Charles Mitchell*



*William Burr and yoke of  
oxen. Notice pung which oxen  
are pulling used for hauling  
wood etc. in winter—about 1898*







*Birdcage-like gazebo or summer house on Brown Estate—first High School. Here the first students enjoyed their lunch on warm spring noon times.*



*Dwight School and School Bus—1897*



*Front entrance gates to Brown Estate—first High School—note gardens on either side of driveway.*



*First School—1725—on Greenfield Green. (Later sold to Samuel Grant, shoemaker—about 1845, for his shoeshop)*





*Mill Plain School—Eva Wilson, teacher*

*Top row—Richard Cleary, Joe Black, Evelyn Black, Margaret Garrity, Tom Garrity, Mary Garrity, Florence Hull.*

*Second row—Alex Hull, William Flanagan, Alice Bonney, Mary Cleary, Irene Bonney, Mary Smith, Amy Jennings, Louise Everett, Jennie Ferris, Mary Flanagan, Sadie Flanagan.*

*Wilson's Mill School  
(Hoyden's Hill Road)*

*Front row, l. to r.—Clinton Sherwood, Martha Lockwood, Walter Jennings, Maude Wilson, Mildred France, Ethel Wisner.*

*Second row—Clifford Jennings, Leora Wilson, Nellie Wilson.  
Teacher—Jessie Lobdell.*



*Wilson's Mill School—1899*

*Front row—Mabel Sherwood, Marty Lockwood, Clinton Sherwood, Mora Fisher, Ida Wales, Minnie Goldstein, Stephen Wilson, David Wilson, Arthur Goldstein, Luella Tripp—with bicycle.*

*Second row—Jennie Carroll, Music Teacher, Willie Johnson, ——— Johnson, Dora Goldstein, Maud Wilson, Daisy Waldman, Leora Wilson.*

*Back row—Nellie Wilson, Ottmer Johnson, Fritz Peterson, Fred Lockwood, Ethel Wisner, Sarah Hopkins, Teacher.*

*For "Good Deeds" at School*

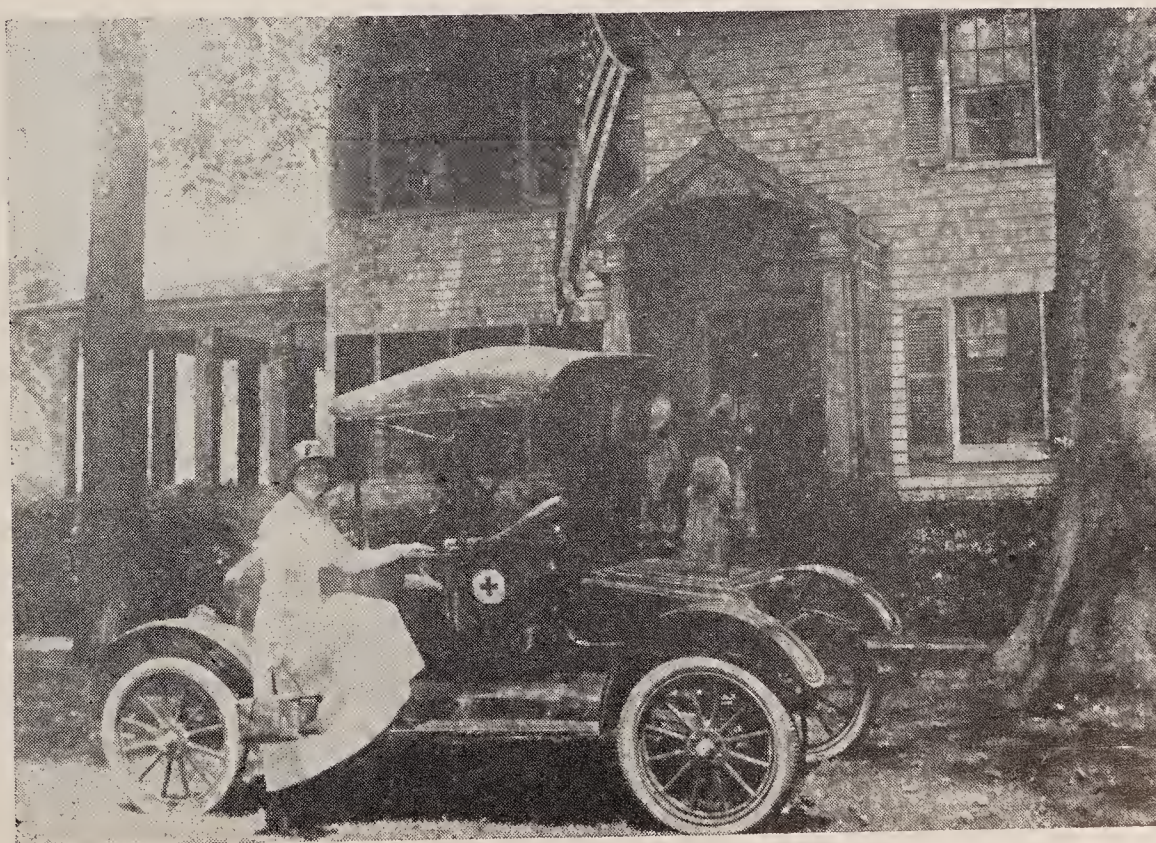






*Boston Post Road—Blizzard of 1888. Note trolley tracks and trolley coming around the bend. Frederick A. Burr (later First Selectman) clears the snow while Mrs. Catherine Burr, mother of Mrs. George Polk looks on from sleigh.*

*The Red Cross Headquarters and Car during World War I—1914-1918.*







*Bath houses—Fairfield Beach—1890. These bath houses were collapsable and folded up. They were taken to the beach via the horse and wagon and there remained for the individual family's use until the end of the summer.*



*Middle District School—October 1890*

*Front row, seated, l. to r.—W. McKenzie, — Morgan, M. McGarry, E. Hewitt, A. Hewitt, — Granville, M. Schwartz, — Granville, N. Smith, Harriet Knapp, George Peterson.*

*Second row—John McGarry, V. Bryant, M. Price, M. Cummings, — Leahy, M. McCaffrey, L. Burr, F. Wakeman, M. Bryant, L. Schwartz, — Morgan.*

*Third row—E. Seigel, Joseph Flint, W. Perry, E. Moore, W. Peterson, Charlie Seward, Howard Thomas.*

*Fourth row—E. Flanagan, C. Bryant, M. Sullivan, M. O'Hara, William Smith, — Sullivan, Jessie Pratt, James Hewitt, —, Fred Schwartz.*

*William Smith was the Principal.*



Selectmen issued a call to get the feelings of the community. The warning for this special Town Meeting was as follows:

Warning is hereby given to the legal voters of Fairfield that a Special Town Meeting thereof will be held at the Town House in said Town on Monday the 17th day of August 1885 at 2:30 o'clock in the afternoon, for the purpose of considering the propriety and expediency of establishing in the Middle District of this Town, a school of higher grade with the special view of affording practical, business instruction to children of all Districts of the Town, and, if thought advisable so to do, to appropriate such sums of money as may be deemed necessary to the establishment of such a school in said District, also to do any other proper and necessary business in the premises.

Fairfield, August 3, 1885

Richard B. Jennings	{	Selectmen of the Town of Fairfield
Albert Turney		
Francis Jelliff		

At this meeting the following resolution was offered:

Resolved that the Joint Board of Selectmen and School Visitors be authorized and directed to establish an advanced school for the use of pupil residents of the Town over 14 years of age that pass an examination to the approval of the School Visitors and that they make an appropriation sufficient to pay the salaries of the teachers and contingent expenses.

That school was to have been in the Middle District, but the motion for its authorization was not passed.

At the same meeting a motion was made that the several School Committees in each School District report at the next annual Town Meeting their opinions regarding the proposed high school which upon motion was passed.

The Fairfield Advertiser reported the meeting in its August 20, 1885 issue —

#### *The Special Town Meeting*

On Monday afternoon the special town meeting which had been called for the purpose of considering the establishment of a high school in a room in the Fairfield School House, assembled in the Town House at 2:30 p.m. A respectable number of our citizens were present. Mr. W. B. Glover was called to the chair. The matter in hand was quite thoroughly discussed. Speeches were made by Messrs. J. J. Jones, O. B. Jennings, Samuel Morehouse, Isaac Jennings, J. T. MacAlpin and others. The sentiments of the meeting were generally favorable to the project, but it was deemed advisable not to move too rapidly. As the success of the project required the cooperation of all of the districts of the Town, it was determined to request the district committees to investigate the matter in their several districts and secure the support of the citizens. No further action could be taken until such reports were received. The

matter was then laid over to the annual Town Meeting, at which time it is hoped definite action can be taken. The meeting then adjourned.

At the annual meeting on October 5, 1885, Mr. J. J. Jones called for reports if any, from the School Committees from the different school districts in regard to the proposed High School from the last Town Meeting. The only reporting School Visitor was Mr. J. T. MacAlpin from the Bulkley's District. The nature of his report was not recorded in the Town Meeting records so we shall not ever know his thoughts. We do know however that the proposed school of higher learning did not at that time become a reality for we find it suggested several times in later years. For example in 1888 —

Upon motion of Mr. Adams, a high school be established in Fairfield Middle District. On motion, it was laid on the table.

Motion made by Mr. Adams that a Superintendent of Schools be appointed. On motion it, too, was laid on the table.

As we read over the newspapers of this period we find many references to schools and each one I believe tends to give us a better idea of education's role during the last quarter of the century just past. Several excerpts are included here:

#### *Mill Plain—September 24, 1885*

The School children received an invitation from Mrs. Jonathan Sturges this week to visit and walk through her grounds. The teachers were much impressed with the nicely cut lawns, the clean walks and the beautiful flower plots, but the children looked with longing eyes on the melon patch, the luscious grapes, and the splendid fruit, which were scattered about in tempting confusion.

\* \* \*

#### PROGRAM MIDDLE DISTRICT SCHOOL March 18, 1886

On Monday night the Town Hall was packed to overflowing by our townspeople who wished to see what the scholars of the Middle District School could do. And it was conceded by all that it was the best entertainment that had been given in Fairfield this winter. Both teachers and scholars deserve much praise and credit for the way that the whole affair passed off. The following is the programme:

Opening Song—"Merry School Days"—School

Opening Piece—Minnie and Nellie Bryant

"I Don't See It"—Song—School

"Over the Hill to the Poor-house"—Recitation—  
Edith Hayes

"The Chickens"—Recitation

"Mosaics"—Recitation—Ambrose Wilson

"You Never Miss"—Song—Mamie Burr

"Sweet Miss Industry"—Dialogue—Jay Jones  
and Belle Perry

"The Farm Yard Song"—Recitation—Hattie  
Turney



"I Am Dreaming"—Song—School  
 "Jemima's Novel"—Dialogue  
 "Red Riding Hood and Mother"—Alice and Emily Jones  
 "Hunting Tower"—Song—George Hawley and Mamie Burr  
 Morning, Noon and Night—Three Girls  
 Pop Corn Dance  
 "Chiming Bells"—Song—School  
 "Curfew Must Not Ring Tonight"—Recitation—Anna Thorpe  
 Mother Goose Illustrated  
 "Chickery, Chickery, Chick"—Song—George Hawley  
 "Courtship Under Difficulties"—Dialogue  
 "When I Was Young"—Dialogue—Hattie Turney and Emily Jones  
 "Almost School Time"—Recitation—Allie Riker  
 "The Sergeant's Story"—Recitation—Emile Wyrzen  
 "A Bird in the Hand"—Song—Six Girls  
 Closing Piece—Minnie and Nellie Bryant

\* \* \*  
 1897 — *Anniversary*  
 Exercises

at Greenfield Academy of Surpassing Interest  
 Wednesday, May 18  
 An event of unusual attractiveness assured  
 Tableaux, Music and Declamations

The anniversary exercises to come off next Wednesday at the Greenfield Hill Academy (Dwight School) are anticipated with liveliest interest. The efforts of Principal Cliff and his co-laborers in arranging the program and providing for its successful rendering have been most assiduous, and if indications count for anything, will bear fruit replete with gratification. The program is suggestive of a large measure of entertainment for all whose good fortune it may be to be present.

Chorus, "O'er The Waters"—Rowley  
 The Little Shaking Quakers  
 Gypsy Chorus from the "Bohemian Girl"—Balfe  
 Musical recitation, "That Waltz of Von Weber"—Perry  
 Miss M. Elva Banks, Miss Elizabeth B. Bradley, Medley, "Sing and Happy Be"—introducing eleven melodies—White. Selected Chorus

*Part I*

March  
 Chorus, "Come Away to the Daisies"—Bellini  
 Violin duet, "Prayer and Rondo"—J. Arthur Pease and William E. Sullivan  
 Chorus, "See The Fair is Just Beginning"—Rimbault  
 Piano duet, "The Witches Flight"—Miss Marie E. Hill, Miss Elizabeth B. Bradley  
 Musical Recitation, "Music on the Rappahannock"—Sommerville—Miss Jessie E. Lobdell, Miss Elizabeth B. Bradley

*Part II*

Physical Culture Class of eighteen girls. a.—Series work with dumb bells. b.—Chorus work

with the dumb bells. c.—Ling system of movements.

Piano trio, "The Bride Elect March"—Sousa—Miss Bessie Archibald, Miss Elizabeth B. Bradley, Miss Marie E. Hill  
 Singing, "The Bugler"—Pensuti—part song and chorus  
 Fancy Club Swinging—Miss Benita V. Slocum  
 Declamation, "Song of Dewey's Guns"—J. Arthur Pease  
 Song, "The Stars and Stripes of Old to Wave for Cuba Free"  
 Declamation, "Pride of Ancestry"—Henry T. Bronson  
 Singing, "Sir Marmaduke"—McLaughlin—humorous part song and chorus  
 Chorus, "Flag of the Free"

**Tableaux**

Physical Culture Class: Georgia Banks, Eleanore Bradley, Bertha Beers, Harriet Hull, Verna M. Bronson, Bertha L. Godfrey, Bessie M. Banks, Edith Merwin, Sadie Banks, B. Katie Kealey, Laura A. Lobdell, Lulu B. Banks, Lillian M. Lockwood, Ethel Merwin, Daisy Meeker, Marion Dunham, Florence Connors, Georgia Bulkley

Pianists: Mrs. Dunham, Miss Elizabeth B. Bradley, Miss Jean A. Stockwell

The Stars and Stripes of Old (Words and Music specially arranged for the school)

We are a band of freemen  
 And love our native land,  
 To save it from rebellion  
 We come with heart and hand.  
 Again we raise undaunted,  
 As th' Maine's sad tale is told,  
 And rally round our banner,  
 The stars and stripes of old.

Again from the newspapers: —

*March 11, 1886*

*Meeting of the Board of School Visitors*

The regular meeting of the Board of School Visitors was held Saturday afternoon March 6th at the residence of Hon. J. J. Jones of Fairfield. Rev. Mr. Warren of Fairfield, President of the Board and Messrs. Wilson, Jones and Adams were present. Final action was taken upon the question of a series of readers and other books, that had been before the board for some time. By unanimous vote *Swinton Readers*, published by *Iverson Blakeman* and *Taylor Company* and the books on *Physiology and Hygiene* published by the same house, were adopted for use in the schools in town.

A Resolution was also passed unanimously requiring that in every case of a child's being attacked by any eruptive disease, the parents be required to procure and send to the school teacher, a certificate from a physician that the disease is in no way contagious or else that the child be kept out of school. After transaction of some other minor miscellaneous business the Board adjourned.



August 13, 1885—The Fairfield Advertiser —

The "Principalship" of the Fairfield Middle School District was tendered to Mr. James A. Wilson, but was politely declined, as the salary was deemed insufficient. A Mr. Baldwin from New Canaan has been secured. (See picture section)

August 27, 1885—The School House is being repaired and the interior cleaned. The walls are to be kalsomined and everything put in first class shape for the opening of the Fall term which takes place on Monday, September 17.

September 17, 1885—There are now about forty-five pupils enrolled on the Mill Plain Register. A full school is assured as hardly half are in yet. There are many children scattered here and there in the District who do not attend school long enough to come within the limits of the law and we understand that the State Secretary of the Board of Education is to be informed.

In Connecticut many were anxious to get all of the youngsters *into* school. The Fairfield Advertiser carried reports of the efforts of the General Assembly and also of the State Board of Education.

On October 14, 1886, it became law that no child under thirteen could be employed in any mechanical, mercantile or manufacturing establishment. Anyone who employed a youngster who was under age was fined a maximum of \$60 for each week he employed such a child. Means of enforcing this act were formulated and established as well.

The State Board of Education further made it mandatory that all towns furnish sittings and instruction for all unemployed children.

It was the right then as now of every child to receive an education.

The Townspeople soon took up the crusade.

This from the Fairfield Advertiser, May 8, 1884 —

#### WHY IS IT?

Editor Advertiser—Can any one explain why it is so many children, especially between the ages of 8 and 14, are daily to be seen along the wharves, waterfront and streets during school hours? I dislike a strict compulsory educational law, but something should be done to place these urchins where they will get something beside a street education. Have we any law—if moral suasion will not suffice—whereby these youngsters can be reached?

A Citizen.

(Perhaps some one who is posted will reply to "A Citizen's" inquiries—ED)

Also from the Fairfield Advertiser, October 14, 1886 —

#### *Meeting of the Board of School Visitors*

The organization meeting of the Board of School Visitors was held in the Town House, Fairfield, on

Saturday, October 9, at 2 p.m. Present—Rev. John Warren, Messrs. C. G. Wilson, Jr., Edmund Hobart and Rev. Charles G. Adams. The Board organized by electing Rev. John Warren, President and Rev. Charles G. Adams, Secretary. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The Secretary was requested to make out a list of the school-books at present authorized for use in the schools of the town. It was voted that the salary of the Secretary be \$125. It was voted that the regular meetings of the Board be on Saturday afternoons, and that the Secretary call such meetings when there is any business to be brought before the Board. The Acting School Visitors of the various Districts were appointed as follows: Middle District, Rev. John E. Bushnell; Southport District, Rev. C. G. Adams; Mill Plain, Holland Hill and Jennings Woods, Mr. Edmund Hobart; Greenfield Hill, Banks North, Banks South and Bulkley's, M. V. B. Dunham, M.D.; North and Toilsome Hill, Rev. John Warren; Burr's, Hoyden's Hill and Deerfield, Mr. C. G. Wilson, Jr. On motion, the meeting adjourned.

The 1888 records show us that

On motion of Mr. Adams, it was voted that the following sums be appropriated for teachers' salaries in the several districts throughout the town for the ensuing year:

Southport Grammar .....	\$700
Primary .....	500
Fairfield Primary .....	400
Grammar .....	700
Mill Plain Grammar .....	700
Primary .....	450
Greenfield Grammar .....	700
(Primary added part of the time)	
Bulkley's Primary .....	350
Holland Hill—Intermediate .....	400
Burr's Primary .....	350
Jenning's Woods—Intermediate .....	400
North—Intermediate .....	400
Hoyden's Hill Primary .....	315
Banks North Primary .....	315
Banks South Primary .....	315
Deerfield .....	315
Stratfield .....	315
	<hr/>
	\$7,625

\$2,500 additional was appropriated for incidental expenses.

The year of 1888 marked a milestone in the history of the Towns' public schools for this was the year when the Consolidation of Schools was recommended by the Board of School Visitors. That report is included here.

#### *Consolidation of Schools*

Report of the School Board—October 1, 1888

At the last annual Town Meeting, the Town having voted in favor of consolidating the School Districts, and elected School Visitors, but no School Committee, the question of the proper School authority at once confronted the Board of School



Visitors. The consolidated system, according to the manifest purpose of the law went into instant effect, but no provision was made for the School Committee, the law was evidently defective in offering no guide to proper action. It was supposed that the Board of School Visitors would constitute the Town Committee and with a change of name the office would be continuous, but this was not found to be the case.

The Board of Selectmen and the Board of School Visitors took the advice of the Town Counsel and found that neither the letter of the law, nor definite precedent, nor Court decision furnished any guide. The advice of the Town Counsel was therefore the least friction and the nearest approach possible to the intent of the law, would be attained by letting matters move quietly with interference in any particular not absolutely required with the ordinary current of affairs, until the terms of the district Committee had expired; that in time for the preparation for the following school year, the town be requested to make provision for the necessary School Committee *pro tem* and such other matters as are requisite for the proper opening and continuance of the public schools of the Town and that the Town then fix the number to constitute the School Committee, and that for the present year, the schools should be administered under that system.

This advice was accordingly adopted and for the last School year, the schools while normally under the consolidated system were administered under the district system. The District Committees and the Board of School Visitors co-operated harmoniously in the necessary administration of affairs avoiding all questions, upon which the legal right of school visitors or committees to act might be questioned postponing all questions that could be postponed to the time when the school committee properly elected could act.

The schools were regularly visited and the contacts made by the district committees faithfully carried out, and stated meetings were held by the Board monthly at the same time as the meetings of the Selectmen, that all questions that might arise under the anomalous condition might be met and answered in the best way. And that the method was efficacious the best proof is that no jars or discord arose out of the difficult position in which all were placed, and the Secretary desires to express on behalf of the Board its hearty thanks and appreciation of the ever ready co-operation of the various district committees without exception with them in the difficult position in which both were placed.

As a consequence of his state of affairs all action of the Board were of a purely volative character, and no matters of moment were acted on at the regular meetings.

At the meeting, way of action was taken requesting of the Town counsel to give his formal opinion of what should be done next and the Selectmen were requested to call a Town Meeting to act on that opinion. Said meeting being called for June 7, 1888.

At the said meeting held June 7, 1888 the remaining members of the Board of School Visitors were

authorized to act as Town Committee until the annual election in October and to transact all business necessary for the opening and maintaining of the schools engaging teachers, etc.

The Board accordingly proceeded by the examination of teachers and consultation with those interested by having children at school in the respective districts, and prepared a schedule of estimates for expenses for the forthcoming year which after being submitted to the Selectmen and amended by them was submitted to a Town Meeting called for that purpose which further amended the proposed amount and voted an appropriation of \$7,625 for teachers' salaries (\$7,847—1887, 1888) and for an outside limit on incidentals including payments of joint district charges and all matters connected with the schools (not hitherto included in the school appropriations) of \$2,500, a total of \$10,175 amount expended last year for these objects, being \$10,417.19.

With the warrant to guide, the school buildings were inspected and the necessary repairs and cleaning ordered. The teachers were engaged and the schools were duly opened in September.

A second inspection was made in connection with the visit required by law at the beginning of the term which showed that repairs had been well done, though some matters not before noted needed attention. The schools opened in good condition, and with the number of scholars enrolled in the different schools aggregating 391 and the largest number in attendance on a single day amounting to 366.

The circumstances of death of one School Visitor, the removal of two others and the occupation of a fourth place the burden of the work upon two members of the Board. It would have been better had the Town filled up the Committee at its meeting in June. But the remaining members have put forth all their efforts to have the schools opened and conducted in the best manner possible. The real test of the working of the consolidated system will be this present year, and it will rest with the new committee to put it in full operation.

This much has already been found that working through a single central Board a great saving can be effected in many ways not possible for a number of small purchasers. And this is true within the smallest way of reflecting upon the administration of the district committee, save with marked endorsement of the economy and care in administration displayed by them, none the less, while the Committee asked of the Town an appropriation of about \$300 less than expenses last year they are satisfied that if the method now begun, be continued by the incoming committee the incidentals can be kept evidently within the amount. The heaviest expenses of repairs and improvements have been incurred and knowledge has been gained to a certain extent of that which will follow. The actual amount saved cannot, of course, be yet determined but that a decided saving will be gained under a wise administration is sure.

Chas. G. Adams  
Secretary Board School Visitors  
School Committee Pro tem



There being no objections the report was adopted as read.

It is interesting to realize that at this point in the schools' history there was a total of 391 children on the rolls of all of the schools combined and that the largest attendance on any one day was 366. There was an examination given for teachers and \$7625 was the total appropriated for the Schools' teachers while the entire school budget amounted to \$10,175. The six School Visitors were Charles P. Adams, Benjamin B. Brothwell, Edmond Hobart, Michael B. Lacey, Dr. W. H. Donaldson and Dr. Martin V. B. Dunham. The amounts to be spent in each district above and beyond the teachers' salaries was:

Fairfield District or Middle .....	\$450
Mill Plain .....	250
Southport .....	500
Hulls Farms .....	75
Banks South .....	125
Banks North .....	125
Burrs .....	150
Greenfield Hill .....	200
Deerfield .....	125
Hoydens Hill .....	100
North District .....	100
Stratfield .....	75
Holland Hill .....	150
Jennings Woods .....	100
Bulkley's .....	125

Those small amounts would buy the tin dipper, fuel, cleaning, repairs, a pitch pipe, slate pencils, water pail, broom, feather duster, books, chalk, etc. \$200 extra was appropriated later for the intermediate department of the Southport School for the balance of the Fall and Winter terms. Some of the bills for incidentals read like this:

For Greenfield School

Debtor W. H. Banks —

3 Wash Basins .....	\$1.15
1 Stove cover .....	.50
1 Floor brush .....	4.00
Bon Ami .....	.10
Soap .....	.16
Gold Dust .....	.20
2 Water pails .....	.70
1 Box Envelopes .....	.50
2 Door springs .....	.90
1 Feather duster .....	2.90
1 Broom .....	.40

Other bills from other sources read:

1 Tarr's Geography .....	1.20
2 Singing Books @ .33 .....	.66
1/2 Ton of Coal .....	2.45
* * *	
4 Large pitch pipes @ .50 .....	2.00

for Fairfield	
Greenfield	
Southport	
Wilson's Mills	
6 Small pitch pipes @ .10 .....	.60
for Banks North	
Plattsville	
Wilson's Mills	
Stratfield	
Mill Plain (they were to get 2)	

The wood for the year at Banks North would cost \$16 and the custodian received \$2 each month for his services. Often the teacher was also assigned this task and she received her \$2 at the end of the month. As one reads the records one can't help but wonder what they used for supplies for month after month the bills would show the teachers' salaries being paid regularly and perhaps a bill or two for supplies of only \$.45 or \$.66 being presented.

The Curriculum for this period resembled closely that of the earlier schools with Reading, Writing and Arithmetic being drilled in ever harder. There was some Geography and History and Health Study pursued as well.

The rewards for high achievement or perfect attendance are worth mentioning and of genuine interest. Little cards with good advice, or valuable mottos were awarded to children who completed a task with clarity and precision. A favorite of mine entitled "Weeds and Flowers" is included in the picture section of this book.

A little glass dish or a sewing basket, or a booklet might also be given for a similar task.

This little poetic memento was found in a scrap book.

Now oh my pupils kind and dear  
I must be gone and leave here  
May you whenever this you see

Oh dear young friends remember me.

Greenfield Hill, Oct. 11 A.D. 1845

Henry Morgan *In*

(In standing for instructor)

During the winter these children went skating on a nearby pond—perhaps across the street as was the case over at Jennings Woods School according to Mr. Homer Sturges who attended that school and who had just had his 86th birthday when he told me, or on Burr's Pond at the Dwight School. The teacher always rang the bell a minute or two early to allow everyone to get his skates off and to be in his place in ample time for the afternoon session according to my Dad.

In the Fall and Spring months Duck on the Rock, Cross Tag, Puss in the Corner, I'm on Danny's Land, Blind Man's Bluff and Old Blood



Tom were favorites in every School Yard.  
 Old Blood Tom intrigued me and when I asked how that was played I learned that it went like this.

Everyone would stand up on a large rock but the one who was "it". Then in unison, those on the rock would say—"Who is around my house this dark night?"

The answer would come from the one who was "it". *Old Blood Tom* he chanted.

They would then ask—"What do you want?"

He would say—"A Sheep".

The Rock standing group would reply "take the poorest, leave the best, never come to trouble the rest".

Whereupon everyone would run off the rock and "Old Blood Tom" would try to increase his strength by catching one or two or more of the runners.

In Duck on the Rock, stone fences were hunted over and over for a special round stone. Each lad had his own stone which he treasured to and from school every day. The "duck" was a block of wood which also had come from someone's home. They had 3 tries with their special stone to knock the "duck" off the larger stone.

There were other rhymes which were also favorites. One which was always bound to intrigue everyone upon hearing it for the first time is repeated here. This is an "answer after me" type jingle.

Leader—Went up 1 pair of stairs

Friend—Just like me

Leader—Went up 2 pairs of stairs

Friend—Just like me

Leader—Went up 3 pairs of stairs

Friend—Just like me

Leader—Went up 4 pairs of stairs

Friend—Just like me

Leader—Went up 5 pairs of stairs

Friend—Just like me

Leader—Went up 6 pairs of stairs

Friend—Just like me

Leader—Went up 7 pairs of stairs

Friend—Just like me

Leader—Looked out the window

Friend—Just like me

Leader—Saw a monkey

Friend—Just like me

Leader—I 1 him

Friend—I 2 him

Leader—I 3 him

Friend—I 4 him

Leader—I 5 him

Friend—I 6 him

Leader—I 7 him

Friend—I 8 him

Leader—How did he taste?

"Horn Away" was a favorite game in the winter on the ice. One member would go across the pond dragging his skate to make a line while the others would skate as hard as they could to get across the line before getting caught.

"Run Sheep Run" was still another. A captain was chosen and then 6 or 8 players would run off and hide. The captain would then start out to find them, but the players would all try to get back to den without being caught. When everyone was in or caught, the game would start over.

In 1895 the Census for the Several Districts of youngsters between the ages of 4 and 16 years of age was:

Southport .....	210
Middle .....	201
Mill Plain .....	119
Stratfield .....	55
Holland Hill .....	50
Bulkley's .....	39
Jennings' Woods .....	34
North .....	29
Burr's .....	29
Banks South .....	23
Greenfield Hill .....	22
Banks North .....	17
East Long Lots .....	17
(a joint district with Westport)	
Deerfield .....	14
Hoyden's Hill .....	7
	<hr/>
	866

The Town School Committee Meetings were held at 2 o'clock on Saturday afternoons now and the available written minutes of the Committee start in 1895.

It was voted that year to purchase a new stove for the Deerfield School and also to adopt Rand and McNally Geographies for use in the Public Schools. These were to be exchanged by the Publishers for Swintons (which were currently used) free of cost to the pupils.

Mr. B. F. Pease, Jr. appeared before the Board and requested the privilege of using Griffin G. S. Algebra in a class of beginners in the Grammar Department of the Southport School.

Then too during this same year "An Old New England Town" was adopted for the School Libraries and ordered purchased first of all with "any money raised for Library Purposes".

Teachers' monthly bills were not to be approved unless they were sent to the Secretary of



the Town School Committee accompanied by the average monthly attendance of the pupils.

The registrations and average attendance at the several schools in January 1896 were:

	Registration	Average Attendance
Southport .....	126	93
Middle .....	114	90
Mill Plain .....	84	68
Stratfield .....	31	21
Holland Hill .....	26	19
Bulkley's .....	15	11
Jennings Woods .....	18	9
North .....	18	12
Burrs .....	11	7
Banks South .....	14	9
Greenfield .....	75	51
Banks North .....	12	10
Deerfield .....	18	12
Hoyden's Hill .....	9	7

On motion on June 1, 1896, it was voted to hold the "annual examination of teachers at the Middle District Schoolhouse June 29 at 9:30 a.m. and that certificates would be issued for five years to all successful candidates". A successful candidate was one who reached or surpassed an average of 75% on the written examination.

The East Long Lots district mentioned was a joint district and the Schoolhouse stood on the north side of Hulls Farms Road just west of Sturges Highway. Both towns supported this school although today we would say that the building stood in Westport. In 1896 it was decided to abolish all joint districts and the Fairfield children who were in this district were to be transported to the Greenfield Centre School. Dr. M. V. B. Dunham, member of the School Committee was assigned the task of making the necessary arrangements and he contracted with someone for carriage hire of the children for \$1.50 per week.

The popularity of the small district school was beginning to wane as the century neared a close and the Town looked to a more adequate program of Education. Each year brought the Consolidation of Schools closer to becoming a reality. The report of the School Committee at a Town Meeting held on January 16, 1897 shows the following:

E. Livingston Wells, President of the Board of School visitors Resolved:

- (1) That the school at Hoyden's Hill be closed and a new school house be built near Wilson's Saw Mill.
- (2) That the Deerfield Schoolhouse be closed and that the Burr's District Schoolhouse be moved on Burr's highway in the Deerfield District and located where the Selectmen and Town School

Committee may deem best.

- (3) That the Town School Committee are hereby directed to close the schools in Bulkley's district and in Banks South District when the yearly average attendance falls to eight pupils.
- (4) That a sum not to exceed \$1000 is hereby appropriated for the purpose of building an addition to the Greenfield Hill District schoolhouse to be used for the purpose of a grammar grade, *Provided* that the foregoing resolutions are adopted and carried into effect.
- (5) Resolved that the Selectmen are hereby directed to carry into effect the foregoing resolutions in time for the opening of the schools on September 1, 1897.

Resolution adopted.

The Curriculum too was being broadened. At this point there were 18 teachers in town.

	No. of Teachers
Southport .....	3
Mill Plain .....	2
Greenfield Hill .....	2
Middle .....	3
Jennings Woods .....	1
Stratfield .....	1
Plattsville .....	1
Holland Hill .....	1
Banks North .....	1
Deerfield .....	1
Wilson's Mills .....	1
Bulkley's .....	1

The School Committee decided upon the following visiting assignments and were to report on "their" respective schools monthly.

Dr. Dunham—Greenfield Hill, Banks North, Bulkley's.  
M. B. Lacey—Plattsville, Jennings' Woods, Deerfield, Wilson's Mills.  
A. P. Wakeman—Mill Plain.  
Rev. T. J. Coleman—Middle and Holland Hill.  
John Hawkins—Southport.  
M. E. Banks—Stratfield.

Their coming to visit the school was feared by the children. They would test the individual children with a long difficult sum or a question on government to see how much they had learned since their last visit. Some of the Visitors were indeed adequate for their assignment and really questioned the children on detail.

In 1898 Civil Government and Physiology were ordered taught in "all grammar departments (the upper grade) from textbooks at least twice each week and in all other Departments to be given orally". Closets were ordered for globes, books, and supplies for Wilson's Mills and Plattsville and automatic inkwells were ordered for all schools. The Grammar Departments were to have written examinations and the little people oral ones. The written exams were to have 10



questions each in English and Arithmetic.

It was reported that year that all departments of the Middle District School were overcrowded "with more pupils than sittings".

A half holiday was declared for the boys and girls at Middle, Mill Plain, Greenfield Hill and Southport to permit the children to hear a lecture on "Birds" in Washington Hall—above the Southport School. Note the pictures of Washington Hall in the picture section.

The schools that had wells for their water supply often had trouble with them with contamination and those that had no wells were a nuisance to the neighbors for they had to "borrow" all of the time. An analysis was taken in 1898 and both Southport District School's and the Middle District School's wells were condemned. The next year Holland Hill had the same trouble and it was necessary "to draw water from J. H. Hewitt's". Mr. Frank C. Hansen offered the use of his well free of charge to the Southport School. \$1.00 a month was paid for well water for Jennings' Woods and for Nichols Terrace Schools. Since there was no well at Banks North, the children had to go over to Sherwood Banks' place for water. Mr. Banks not only suggested that the well be dug partly on his place, but also offered to help in defraying the cost of sinking the well.

In 1902 running water was put into the Middle District School with the cooperation of the Bridgeport Hydraulic Company for \$58.

In 1910 the Committee voted to buy enough drinking cups for every child in each school.

The Text Book Committee recommended that Reed and Kellogg's Grammars and the series of readers "Stepping Stones to Literature" be adopted—to be introduced as old texts were worn out or new classes were formed.

Tuition in this period amounted to 38¢ a week.

Both the Town Meeting Minutes and the School Committee minutes showed a growing interest in Physical Culture at that time. There was a class in the afternoon in the hall above the Southport school and it was reported that the noise annoyed the older children while they were working. The class was immediately discontinued. It wasn't long though before it became a part of the regular weekly curriculum.

From the Town Meeting Minutes:—October 3, 1898—"Motion made that the recommendation of the School Board receive the approval of this meeting and that an appropriation of \$600 for Music and Physical Culture be granted them".—Passed.

Dr. Dunham and Moses E. Banks were appointed a Committee to hire the teacher. The following June, Miss Carroll, the first teacher was requested to prepare an exhibition in music and physical culture from the entire Town. The exhibitions were to be held in the Town Hall and at Washington Hall in Southport. Her efforts received a fine commendation from the School Committee. When Dr. Dunham reported on "his" schools he said that the exhibits at Plattsville and Banks North had been excellent there and the singing had been especially good too. Miss Carroll the first music teacher in Town is shown in the Wilson's Mill School's group picture.

The next year the Southport Firemen were given permission to use the grounds and part of the Southport Schoolhouse for their annual carnival on July 4, 1899. The Banks South School and the Burr's School were disposed of. The former building was sold for \$22.50 and the stove and coal for an additional \$7.50.

The first unified Course of Study was planned in 1899 when the School Committee voted that the Principals of the Grammar Departments were directed "to meet to frame a code of studies to the end that the work of the departments in all schools throughout the Town may in some degree correspond". This was a move with a great deal of foresight, for few communities in the country had reached this level of organization and planning. It has been indeed evident that the Committee Members or the teachers were always seeking to better their procedures. As early as 1902, all teachers were meeting together on Friday afternoons once each month, for conferences on methods. Lectures were held on Saturdays to glean new ideas for their daily work with boys and girls. This notice is at the Pequot Library.

All Interested Are Invited to Attend!

A Teachers' Meeting

will be held in

The Middle District School Building  
Fairfield

Saturday, Feb. 4, 1905  
2:30 P.M.

Subject—"What public libraries and public schools  
are doing for each other

Caroline M. Hewins  
Hartford

New books were sought in 1899—"Dr. Dunham brought attention to Atwoods Series of Arithmetic as being up to date and complete and asked permission to use them with the others in his schools"—and in 1901 the Marquand, Merrill and Company Half Slant Course of Writing



books were adopted for use in the Schools.

New information and experiences were brought to the children in 1900—"Mrs. Mabel Osgood Wright talked to all the pupils of Centre School on Arbor and Bird Day as to birds and their habits and gave each child some seeds to plant", and "Mrs. Wright has secured a fine piano for the use of Centre School", and in 1899

Resolved that a vote of thanks be given by these joint Boards (School Committee and Board of Selectmen) to Dr. M. V. B. Dunham and Mrs. Dunham for their untiring efforts to promote the efficiency of the Greenfield Hill School by giving instruction in vocal music to the pupils during the past year which culminated so successfully by an entertainment given May 18, resulting in receipts of \$50.00 for the benefit of the School.

And further —

Resolved that these Boards give a vote of thanks to Mrs. Frederick Bronson for her generous donation of works of art to the Greenfield Hill School, also to the Greenfield Hill Village Improvement Society for tastefully laying out and beautifying the School grounds with shrubbery and flowers, which add much to the pleasure of school life and is a delight to all, etc. etc.

The \$50 raised by the entertainment helped pay for the first piano at the Greenfield Hill School.

There were to be additions to the program and a shortened school year.

*Town Meeting—Oct. 7, 1901*

Judge Elmore S. Banks presented the following resolution:

Resolved—That the Town School Committee be and they hereby are instructed to require one hour of attendance and instruction by the music teacher so called in music and physical culture each week in each school room, except in the four primary department rooms where such attendance and instruction shall be one half hour each week.

Amended by Rev. A. E. Beeman that the matter be left to the judgment of the School Board.

Amendment lost.

Resolution of E. S. Banks passed.

Dr. Donaldson moved that the School Committee be requested to make arrangements for 36 weeks of school instead of 40 weeks as formerly. Passed.

Judge Perry moved that the amount asked for schools be \$12,500.00 instead of \$12,000.00. Passed.

Judge Perry moved that the School Board be instructed to investigate school accommodations, their conditions and needs and cost of providing additional accommodations if necessary, also as to the rights and titles of all school property and report at a Special Town Meeting. Passed.

Taken and recorded by  
George H. Knapp, Town Clerk.

On June 9, 1900, the School Committee voted

to send "Twenty pupils of our Public Schools who shall pass the best examinations for entrance to the Bridgeport High School". It was later voted to pay tuition for all who chose to take the examination and passed it. High School pupils from Fairfield attending the Bridgeport High School 1900-1901 were: Pauline Beers, Bessie Bergen, Eleanor Bradley, Alice May Grumman, Anne Sophia Grumman, Nellie McGarry, Mabel W. Nichols, Mary Frances Sherman, Thomas J. Kelley, Albert H. Knapp, Winthrop Blaine Northrop, John Maurice Deyo, Marie J. Rogers.

Also in 1900 a committee was established to develop a uniform system of grading throughout the schools.

Housing was ever a problem—in 1899 it was reported that there were 10 or 12 more pupils than seats and the year before the Committee had ruled that "whenever any room is overcrowded by children attending from another district, the acting school visitor shall direct said children to attend school in their own district" and in 1900 the Stratfield School was said to be overcrowded and the desks were too small. The Centre School too, was overcrowded, and unhealthy from a ventilation point of view. As a temporary measure the hall over Pickett's Store was rented for \$50 a month to the end of the year. Benches and tables were brought from Greenfield and blackboards were set up. The Nichols Terrace School was said to have one more scholar than seats. A new school was built there in 1901. A few years later Holland Hill and Nichols Terrace Schools were on half day sessions for the same reason.

In 1902 Bulkley School was closed and a two room school building in the Middle or Centre District was planned—to be built on the cottage plan. In 1907 a new Nichols Terrace School was constructed for \$6450—R. B. Jennings receiving the contract. The old building being sold for \$600.

In 1903 the School Committee hoped to establish a District of Supervision with an adjoining town or two and have a Superintendent of Schools to supervise the schools within the Towns involved. They asked Westport, Easton and Stratford to join in the project but these towns were not interested. They then sought Trumbull's participation but they too declined. Venturesome as they had been on so many occasions they decided to hire a Superintendent of Schools for Fairfield and Mr. William Wheatley of Chester, New York was contracted to serve the Town from



June 30, 1903 to July 1, 1904. In addition to his meagre salary he was allowed \$100 for his carriage hire within the Town for the year. In 1905 Branford signified their desire to share Mr. Wheatley's services and he spent two days in Branford and three days in Fairfield. This did not last long but Westport joined Fairfield for this service July, 1908 to July 1911.

Just a little later at a Town Meeting held on Saturday, July 18, 1903 at 2 p.m., the Committee which had been appointed a month earlier to survey the condition of the School Houses reported and their summary of existing conditions is included here.

*Town Meeting—July 18, 1903  
Saturday, 2 P.M.*

Report of the Committee on Condition of School Houses of the Town of Fairfield. The subscribers appointed by the Town on the first day of June 1903, a committee to examine its Schoolhouses and make recommendations with reference thereto, beg leave to report that we have visited all of the school buildings of the Town with one exception, viz: Nichols Terrace and examined them with care.

The Fairfield Middle District schoolhouse in addition to the new construction which has been ordered by the Town and plans for which are under consideration needs a new floor in the upper room and a partially renewed floor in the lower room, provision for ventilation in the upper room, an interior window over the stairway, repairs to the underpinning and some grading next to the building.

The Southport Schoolhouse is in deplorable condition. The foundation should be pointed up and the ground grades around the yard should be cleaned up and graded, the fences need much repair, the front steps need renewing—in their present condition they are a menace to the lives of the scholars, the gutters and leaders are badly out of order, and the roofs and cornices apparently need considerable attention. The scholars desks are antiquated and many of them broken: an interior window should be put in the partition between the front and back hallways in the basement.

The Mill Plain Schoolhouse needs repairs to the roof. Chimneys, gutters, and leaders, the scholars desks and seats in both rooms should be changed so as to be sideways to the windows, and in our judgment it would be well to remove the front fence entirely.

The Holland Hill schoolhouse needs repairs to the roof and leaders. There should be fixed washstands in the entry with suitable waste pipe instead of the present use of pails and basins, the yard should be freed from poison ivy and properly graded. The attendance at this school taxes the present building to its utmost.

The Jennings Woods Schoolhouse needs to be raised about one foot. The chimneys should be pointed up, the old well filled in, the fences repaired and washstands provided in the entry.

The Stratfield schoolhouse needs a knob on the

front door, repairs to the underpinning and a new chimney built inside of the building with two flues, the cellar should either be made dry or a shed be provided outside for fuel, and if the cellar is retained some way of getting into it from the interior of the building should be arranged if possible. The well needs a new platform. Surface water should be led away from the building by proper grading.

The Plattsville schoolhouse needs ventilation through the underpinning. A playground should be provided here at present the children are practically confined to the highway.

The Wilson's Mills schoolhouse needs a washstand in the entrance hall and openings in the underpinning. This is a new schoolhouse and in good repair.

The Banks North schoolhouse has a defective chimney and a leaky roof. It needs a new floor and greater conveniences for obtaining drinking water than exist at present. The fence around the grounds should be repaired.

The Greenfield Hill schoolhouse needs new steps at the highway in the rear, a larger furnace and some repairs to the leader pipes.

Some general observations apply to all or nearly all of the above school properties. The closets (outdoor toilets) are almost without exception in a disgraceful condition; some should be changed in location, most of them should be renovated, all should be cleaned and it should be made somebody's imperative duty to see that they are kept in proper consideration. In their present shape they simply invite abuse. They should be kept locked when schools are not in session.

Ventilation is sadly deficient in almost all the school rooms.

This important subject needs intelligent and diligent attention at once. As one item toward this end, boards should be provided for the windows in every school room, adjusted so as to allow the ingress and egress of air without permitting a current of air to strike the scholars. The cellars in some of the schoolhouses are incumbered with refuse, the accumulation of years and are a menace to the health of the children.

Slate blackboards should be put in every school room in place of the present arrangements.

All school room windows should be provided with suitable and serviceable shades. It is a fair question whether all exterior blinds should not be removed.

The walls of all schoolhouses should be kalsomined or similarly treated at least once a year and cellars where such exist should be whitewashed or painted.

The school properties sorely need more intelligent and constant attention. It should be someone's duty to render this and it should be the teacher's duty to report when it is not so rendered. We found one teacher actually engaged in washing the school room windows so that the scholars might have light enough for their work. A neglected schoolhouse simply invites further injury. The teachers should be held responsible as far as practically possible for the abuse of either the school buildings or grounds by the scholars.



We recommend: (1) That a Committee be appointed with full power to put all the schoolhouses and grounds of the Town into such good condition and repair as it may deem advisable. (2) That an issue of town bonds to the amount of \$10,000 be authorized, the proceeds of such part thereof as may be needed to be expended by said Committee in the discharge of the duties above referred to. (3) That an Inspector of Schoolhouses and Grounds be appointed by the Town with power to keep said houses and grounds in proper repair after the work of the above mentioned committee is completed.

M. E. Banks, Chairman  
Chas. B. Jennings, Secretary  
Simeon Pease  
Jno. H. Perry  
N. H. Sherwood

Fairfield, July 18, 1903

In 1905 the names of the several schools in Town were changed and many of them bear the same names today.

Southport School became known as Pequot School.

Centre School became known as Sherman School.

Mill Plain School became known as Lafayette School.

Greenfield School became known as Dwight School.

Holland Hill School became known as Silliman School.

Stratfield School became known as Lincoln School.

Wilson's Mills School became known as Staples School.

Jennings Woods became known as Bancroft School.

Plattsville School became known as Jefferson School.

Banks North School became known as Banks School.

Nichols Terrace School became known as Washington School.

(See page 247 of Interesting Notes for the Course of Study adopted in 1905 in English, Penmanship, Arithmetic, Reading, Spelling, Geography, History, Physiology and Physical Culture)

That same year an eighth grade room was planned for the Sherman School and Miss Julia B. Banks was to be the first teacher. That room was to be open to all scholars of the eighth grade from any section of the Town for one year.

In 1906 on June 21—a Thursday evening—the first graduation exercises were held. A triumphal day for the whole Town. The next year the eighth grade room was moved to Perry's Block (over Devore's Bakery).

Another farsighted move was taken in 1906 when it was decided to hire only Normal School graduates for teaching positions and in 1907 a salary schedule for teachers was inaugurated.

As the little neighborhood schools closed, transportation of the youngsters to a more centralized form of education became a problem. The first such arrangement had been made back in 1896 when the East Long Lots children were

carried to Greenfield for \$1.50 a week. Each school closing brought new routes and in 1907 the following transportation routes were listed:

From Hulls Farms: Wagon to start at 8:15 easterly to Wakeman's Corner, northerly to Banks corner, easterly to Baker's corner, thence to Schoolhouse at a price not to exceed \$240 a year (\$24 a month) and this route was awarded to H. R. Elwood.

The Carrier from Banks South is to take the following route: Wagon to start from Mr. Hawkins house at 7:45 westerly to East Long Lots School house, then northerly to Cross Highway, thence to Craft's Corner, then to Schoolhouse at a price not to exceed \$400 a year and this route was awarded to Frederic Hawkins.

Carrier from Bulkley's District is to take the following route: Wagon to leave Mr. Brothwell's house at 8 o'clock thence northerly to Sherwood's corner, thence westerly to Baker's Blacksmith Shop, thence northerly to Schoolhouse at a price not to exceed \$400 a year and this route is awarded to J. F. Brothwell.

Carrier from Deerfield is to take the following route: Wagon to start from Deerfield Schoolhouse at 7:45 a.m., thence southerly to Wiggin's Corner, thence westerly to Wheeler's Corner, thence southerly to Schoolhouse at a price not to exceed \$400 a year and this route awarded to William H. Burr. All of these routes carried children to the Greenfield Hill School.

Evidently on one occasion during a snowstorm one of the drivers used an ox sled to bring in his riders for he was severely reprimanded at one of the meetings and told that in the future he was not to use a similar conveyance under any circumstances.

One of the earliest drivers to the Greenfield School was Deacon John Hull who was noted for his dexterity of aim in swinging his long horse whip and hitting the legs of anyone who dared to ride the steps while the wagon moved along over the roads. When the children's feet got cold in the winter, they would run along behind the wagon. It has been said that one day on Bronson Road one of the wagons came upon some ice. It started to slide and turned over on its side. The children, most of whom had their skates around their necks ready for noon use on Burr's Pond (where Mr. and Mrs. William Shallow now live), landed in a heap. After a good bit of unscrambling, they helped right the wagon and all continued on their way to school undaunted!

The arrival time of the wagons was carefully scrutinized by the School Committee member in each district for they were clearly told that they were to reach the Schoolhouse "at 8:45 and not any earlier". The day started at 9 o'clock throughout town and closed at 3:30. There was



an hour and a quarter at noon.

One of the drivers in particular was carefully scolded for he varied from 20 to 30 minutes in arrival each day and he skipped some of the passengers who weren't "already waiting for his carriage". The torn curtains in the carriage "were to be mended immediately and the cracks in the floor of the wagon were also to be covered with sufficient straw". He was further told that he had to supply more than one blanket for his passengers. Does not this give you a delightful picture of the early school bus? There is a photograph of one of these early wagons in the picture section of this book.

When the Eighth Grade Room was first established in the Middle District, each one provided his own transportation but as the class became larger various sections requested help with getting their children to the room. In 1907, it was voted that trolley fares would be paid for all eighth grade children from all over town.

Trolleys were used in larger proportions as the years went on. The children from all districts used them as they went to High School except for those from Greenfield Hill who arrived each morning by bus. This bus became a concern in later years, for it was used not only by the High School children to get to and from school, but also by "the general public, sundry teachers and pupils going to Bridgeport". The School Committee ordered this to be stopped immediately.

The Town was ever anxious to keep the children in school and every endeavor was expended in this regard to maintain good records of attendance. Each teacher was encouraged to increase her school's daily attendance and careful records were made mandatory. There were several interesting entries where "attendance is down at Middle District because of wet travelling" and "the attendance at Banks North is down to 5 because the children are all out to work"—in the onion fields no doubt. Miss Jessie Lobdell, Principal at Wilson's Mills in 1899 was commended for the good attendance of her scholars. It seemed that she did considerable "missionary work among her families" by visiting homes and encouraging children to attend school regularly.

The School Committee also voted in 1906 that "when a child above grade three is unnecessarily absent three days or more in a month, he shall be dropped to the grade lower upon his return. When he has made up the work to the satisfaction of the teacher he would then be reinstated in his former grade".

In 1909 it was further voted that each child having 30 days' perfect attendance is entitled to a quarter day holiday. By 1913 children had to complete Grade 6 before working papers would be issued. The little country schools were often closed for a week or a few days because of an epidemic of whooping cough or tonsillitis or the illness of the teacher.

In 1905 a truant officer was appointed and he was to receive \$1.00 for each case he worked on.

The report of the Superintendent for the year 1907-1908 gives an excellent picture of the accomplishments, goals and hopes of the Town for their children and their schools.

#### REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

To the School Committee of the Town of Fairfield:  
Gentlemen:

Your Superintendent would respectfully submit, as his fourth annual report, the following statements concerning the condition of our schools last year and at the opening of the present fall term.

With the exception of a few rooms, the attendance has been worthy of commendation, reaching an average of nearly five per cent higher than for the preceding year. During 1907-08, the discipline, industry and general school spirit have been unusually good, with the natural result that the pupils have made marked progress in their studies. Never before in my experience of fourteen years as teacher and supervisor, have I felt so constrained to commend highly both pupils and teachers for their faithful and excellent work. Whether generally known or not, the fact remains that the Fairfield schools have reached a plane of excellence where they compare most favorably with schools in other important towns.

However, when we have under consideration the welfare of children, the promise of our homes and of our country, we dare not stand still. There are other needed improvements. Our English work in grades 6, 7 and 8, is that required by the Bridgeport authorities and consists very largely of technical grammar—a subject of little practical value unless one is going to study foreign languages. Hence we have introduced a second course in English for these grades, one as serviceable as we can make it for the average person who is to read, write and speak English all his life. This practical course is offered as an option to all who are not planning to enter the Bridgeport High School.

Then, our penmanship has not been satisfactory. 'Tis true, our pupils write a good school hand, with the letters well rounded, a writing that is perfectly legible. But a good school hand does not pass for business penmanship, either in the letter-forms or in the ease and rapidity of the movement, and as a result our school product has little commercial value. This conviction has resulted in your Committee engaging Mr. C. G. Prince, Supervisor of Penmanship in the Bridgeport Schools, who will meet our teachers twice a month until January 1st and then once a



month until June 25th, to direct their efforts toward business penmanship in our schools. Mr. Prince comes to us with several years of successful experience in business colleges and as having done very efficient and satisfactory work in Bridgeport the past year. I might add that, owing to our nearness to Bridgeport, the services of Mr. Prince have been secured at a very small outlay of money.

One other matter here, that of singing in our schools. For the past three years, we have endeavored to teach singing without the guidance and inspiration of a supervisor of music. In some of our schools, we have succeeded remarkably well; in others, we have done fairly well; while, in a few cases, we have signally failed. For over a year, your Superintendent has been recommending that a supervisor of music be engaged to visit our school rooms once in two months and to meet our teachers in a body for consultation and instruction five or six times a year. This is the plan followed in many large towns and cities and is known to be a success.

Late in June, a petition to your Committee, signed by a goodly number of representative citizens, requested that a supervisor of music might be so engaged for one year at a cost not to exceed \$150. It is a pleasure to state that Miss Maude R. Russell of New Haven, for four years past and at present the very efficient supervisor of singing in the Branford schools has been engaged for a little guidance and inspiration here and there; and this, we are confident, will soon place our singing on the desired plane of excellence.

A much coveted improvement, but outside of the schoolrooms, next suggests itself. In Westport, a Women's Town Improvement Association has been very commendably engaged the past year in beautifying the Town wherever opportunity offered, and especially the school grounds. This Association has had meetings with the teachers, pupils and school committee, has presented prizes to the schools showing the most improvement in the appearance of their grounds and has secured the co-operation of florists and landscape gardeners, with the grand result that nearly every yard surrounding a Westport school has been greatly transformed and beautified within one short year. These ladies have just held a two days' fair and secured the necessary funds for another year's campaign against the forces of neglect and ugliness. Such an association would be most acceptable in Fairfield. The National flag now graces each of our schoolhouses, ought not Nature in her loveliness of grass, shrub and flower be induced to add new graces to our various school properties and new joys as well to pupils, teachers and passersby? Must we forego the powerful lesson of order and beauty that a dozen attractive school properties will teach the pupils and the residents in their neighborhood?

We take pleasure in announcing a substantial increase both in the number of Fairfield pupils attending the Bridgeport High School and in those to be found in our eighth grade room. There are in the High School this term 52 Fairfield pupils and in Miss Julia B. Banks' room 38 pupils receiving eighth

grade instruction. As was predicted three years ago, when once the eighth grade room should be made permanent and a pronounced success, then would the sixth and seventh grades also become much larger. This has proved so true that our sixth and seventh grade at the Centre has become much overcrowded and we have been obliged to make a division, giving the seventh grade pupils to Miss Mary E. Nichols and those of the sixth grade to an additional teacher. While this arrangement requires an expenditure of more money, as do nearly all others that make for better educational conditions, there should be sufficient consolation in the fact that we are successfully keeping our upper grade boys and girls in school until they shall become better fitted for their life-work. In other words, without proper adjustment to the Bridgeport High School and with our upper classes well graded and supplied with the best teachers we can find, we are sending pupils to the neighboring High School and filling our upper grade rooms to an extent out of proportion to the natural increase in the primary grades. These well filled upper grades are certainly from an educational viewpoint a most desirable condition.

As a rule, the public generally and even superintendents in reports like this, do not give the deserved prominence to the loyal teachers who come into close contact with our boys and girls in their school living, that period of life so abounding in promise if properly cultivated. Here, let me say first that it is no easy matter to secure or to keep good teachers. Throughout the United States, the demand for teachers who are normal graduates is increasing considerably faster than the supply. In Connecticut, during the past two years, the enrollment of student teachers in our Normal schools has fallen off noticeably, but, in the face of this, several hundred additional teachers are required each year to fill the vacant positions. To make this clearer, from the Town of Fairfield for nearly ten years past, there has not been a single student attending a State Normal school, while during the same period we have required annually anywhere from one to six new teachers to equip our town schools. Our children must be taught, qualified teachers must be secured and, when proved efficient, they should be retained—even at an increase in salary. We have in Fairfield an excellent corps of teachers and we believe in retaining them when they prove worthy—we lost one teacher only last year—but, like others who will have good teachers, we must pay them fair salaries. Compared with like or small towns, Fairfield is paying its teachers good salaries, but, when compared with Bridgeport and other Connecticut cities and large towns, to say nothing of New Jersey and of New York, both the State and the City, we are paying considerably smaller salaries. However, owing to the larger number of teachers required in our schools today and to the somewhat better salaries paid them, we are obliged to expend this new year for teachers' salaries about \$3,500 more than five years ago.

In the matter of expense, we all know that labor of every sort is higher now than a few years ago. Accordingly, we are obliged to pay our janitors and



carriers of school children more than formerly. As a people, we demand these days better roads, better kept and more attractive public buildings, including school houses. These latter buildings have required in our town this summer an expenditure of nearly \$2,000; for a well, new furniture and a furnace at Nichols' Terrace, for a small cellar in place of the diminutive hole and for a new furnace at Greenfield Hill, for a new roof, chimney, plastering and for painting inside and out at Jennings Woods, as well as for minor repairs and improvements in various other schools. Twelve buildings, containing twenty-five rooms used for school purposes and accommodating nearly 1,100 children, naturally take considerable money each year to keep them in satisfactory repair. Then, our new school at Nichols' Terrace had only been half fitted up and half furnished, so this required an amount of money larger than usual to get the second half ready for occupancy this September.

By the way, this new school, which some thought unnecessary, shows a present enrollment of 140 pupils, while more houses are building on all sides.

Now a word or two about our annual cost per pupil. The cost per pupil registered in our schools last year was \$20.15, an increase of 57 cents over the year before. In Bridgeport, where the rooms are uniformly well filled and where no transportation of pupils has to be paid for, the cost per pupil registered in the grammar schools last year was \$20.89. In Naugatuck, a town much like ours, the cost last year was \$22.45; while in Waterbury, a city farther removed from New York City and its high prices, it was \$23.27, an increase of \$2 over the previous year. To go over the State line into the small city of Malden, Mass., we find the cost per pupil last year was \$29.79; or into the larger city of Newton, Mass., we learn that it was for primary and grammar grades \$36.22. If now we pass over into New York State, we are informed by the last year's report of the State Commissioner of Education that the average cost per pupil in the grammar schools of the whole state was \$37.39, an increase of \$1.16 over the previous year. These figures are presented as a partial basis of comparison that our citizens may see we are not alone in discovering our school expenses to be on the increase. Let me add that this growing expenditure does not mean an extravagance but simply an approach to the better educational advantages plainly due our children, who tomorrow must take up life's burden and who will surely find it more complex, competitive and heavy than do their parents.

As is their good habit, the Eunice Dennie Burr Chapter of the D.A.R. presented in June prizes to our pupils at the Centre School for best work in American History, in Language and in Spelling. Likewise, the Dorothy Ripley Chapter of the D.A.R., at the close of school in June gladdened the children of the Southport School with suitable framed pictures for the various rooms. The Fairfield Memorial and the Pequot Libraries continue to provide attractive instructive magazines and books for our children, this reading matter being made accessible to every pupil in town. Accordingly, in the name

of the pupils, teachers and your Committee, as well as personally, I desire to express our sincere appreciation of the gifts, the cordial co-operation and the sympathetic interest in behalf of our schools that have been variously tendered by patrons, societies and corporations.

In conclusion, let us appreciate the fact that while school expenses have increased the past year, our schools likewise have increased in the number of pupils educated, and have improved in the excellence of the schooling given. Let all, who have at heart our children's best welfare, take fresh courage and, working together, let us realize for our boys and girls the coming year even better school advantages than ever before. And finally, I would thank most heartily your Committee for continued confidence in me and sympathetic co-operation in our common work.

Respectfully submitted,  
William A. Wheatley,  
Superintendent of Schools.

Well—improvements and changes with Fairfield's growth in population. It was voted on August 30, 1909 "That the schools of the Town have Wednesday, September 15, or if stormy, the next fair day for attendance at the Greenfield Fair". That was a large Fair held annually at the Greenfield Country Club.

The School Committee also voted in 1909 that married women were no longer to be employed as teachers in town. It was also voted to add \$25 to the salaries of all teachers who held honorary certificates from the State and substitute teachers received \$2.00 a day for their services. Principals received \$25 additional for each room they supervised.

In 1910 a \$10,000 addition was planned for Washington School and in 1912 a \$13,000 addition to Sherman School. Holland Hill was in need of increased accommodations. Fire escapes were planned for some of the schools. Clocks were planned for each room in 1914 provided the cost did not exceed \$1.00 each.

That same year a committee was appointed to investigate and report on the advisability of commencing High School studies in sundry rooms in the new Sherman School and on August 3, 1914, it was voted "to establish in Fairfield a grade equivalent to the First Year in High School". Miss Florence Townsend was to be the first teacher of this class.

The new Sherman School and the new Holland Hill School buildings were accepted that year and a telephone was installed in Sherman School—the first such instrument in any school.

1915 brought two new thoughts for study. 1—A Kindergarten was requested for the Sherman District. There were 46 children who were



said to be desirous of such instruction. 2—The advisability of having a regular high school in town was also under discussion.

In 1916 the Brown property—the site of the present Roger Ludlowe High School—was accepted as a gift from Miss Annie B. Jennings for use as a High School. The meetings of the School Committee were immediately changed to the new High School. Pictures of the first Fairfield High School are included in the picture section of this book.

Increased facilities were needed in Lincoln School (Stratfield district) and a new school was proposed in Southport as space was being used over the Southport Savings Bank. The closing of Jefferson (Plattsville) and Bancroft (Jennings Woods) Schools were proposed and these youngsters, too, would be carried to Lincoln.

In 1916 a standard plan for all new schools was adopted with the new Lincoln and the new Holland Hill Schools serving as master designs. The new school at Holland Hill was to be called Holland Hill School and the new school on the lot bought of Mr. B. Pierce to be known as Nathan Hale School.

In 1917 Pequot was still bursting at the seams and there were classes in the Sherwood Building, and the Banks' Building and finally Trinity Church, too, was leased for four months.

Parts of the annual report of the School Committee for 1917 is included here and gives a very good picture of the year's progress.

#### *Report of Town School Committee—Sept. 1, 1917*

The heartfelt thanks of this community are due Miss Annie Burr Jennings for her handsome donation of a house and 6 acres of land centrally located for the purposes of a High School. Her generosity has been further shown by complete repairs to the iron fence in front of said property, and by her consent to share the expense of fitting the house for a commodious educational center.

Mr. O. G. Jennings has aided much in bringing home to the boys and girls of the schools by lending for their use the past summer several acres of land near the center, the value of food products whose growth they themselves have engineered. The exhibit of which they achieved was gratifying to all who saw it.

In the handsome and convenient schoolhouses now fast nearing completion in Southport, Holland Hill and near the Bridgeport line, your town has taken a new departure in building. Not only will these structures amply accommodate the children, but as modern thought demands commodious assembly rooms in these schools will furnish rallying points for social movements.

In accordance with a vote of the Town, your committee has purchased a well located lot, for a

school in Southport section whenever increase in children demands it.

It is but justice to your Committee that you should know that the heavy outlay for schools the past year has been caused by two conditions not possible to be foreseen; one is, the increase in number of school children last autumn by 400, and the extra teaching force thus exacted by us, and the renting, fitting up and heating of a half a dozen rooms of private parties while the Southport school is being built. These rents and extras will cease January 1, 1918 and as our Town has now no pupils in any outside High School, the bills for these items will be nil. Teachers' Contracts entered into and which seem to us other necessary outlays will need the sum of sixty-five dollars to 31 August 1917.

The Schools had opened late—September 26—that year because of an epidemic of infantile paralysis. The total registration amounted to 2,427 with the High School enrollment having reached 97. (It was 66 the preceding year). The upper grades were organized on a departmental basis. There were fourteen substitute teachers on the list and their daily pay amounted to \$2.50. The report went on to say:

In the grammar schools the average number of pupils per teacher was 47, a number, by far, too great for the most efficient work.

It has been the aim to organize the schools so that the classes and number of pupils would be as equally distributed as possible, and to avoid overcrowding especially in the primary grades. Under such conditions, there is little or no opportunity to do individual work with pupils, who are unable to make progress without it. With this thought in view, it is the recommendation of the Superintendent that the number of pupils per teacher be reduced from the present high average (47) to a number not less than 36 and not more than 40.

#### *Recommendations*

(1) Broadening of the Course of Study for girls by introduction of a course in Domestic Science beginning with the 7th grammar grade and continuing through the High School.

(2) Broadening of the Course of Study for boys by the introduction of a course of Manual Training and Mechanical Drawing beginning with the 7th grammar grade and continuing through the High School.

(3) Reduction of children per teacher to a number approximating 36.

(4) The completion of the school building now being erected on the property purchased from the Pierce Estate. The four rooms now being built are more than filled and the building has not yet been occupied. It is thought that it will be economy to complete the other four rooms at once, as they will be needed before the building is finished.

(5) The building of an eight-room school building at North Fairfield on property which, I believe, is to be given to the Town by the Bridgeport Housing Association. We are now maintaining four rooms



in a building which has been furnished to the Town, free of charge, by the Housing Association. At the present rate of increase we shall need these eight rooms by September 1918, four of which, if built, would be filled now with an average of 45 pupils to each room.

*Total Registration in all schools in Town*

1904-05	926 children	20 teachers
1910-11	1159 children	27 teachers
1916-17	2347 children	50 teachers

Children sent to Bridgeport High School 13,  
children sent to Westport High School 7.

In 1918 the High School day was set from 9 to 2:45 with a half hour "intermission for lunch". A school physician was added to the School Staff and the people of Grasmere requested a new school the next year.

A part of the School Committee Report on September 1919 clearly defines the need for such a new building:

*Report of the Town School Committee of the Town of Fairfield September 1, 1919*

An average increase in the number of children of school age each year of four hundred forces a very large additional outlay for all sorts of supplies which are—as you know—free to all our children.

With our new and complete buildings erected the past two years, and after careful placing of children in schools not overcrowded, there are at this moment six rooms holding only half day sessions, because it is impossible to furnish seating capacity for the new arrivals. We would urge the need thus stated for more accommodations for pupils upon the attention of the citizens, and say that we do not in this matter put forward a "theory" but lay before you a "condition." In the section known as "Grasmere" in the east end of town a lot should be bought and a school-house erected as soon as it possibly can be done. This done, the condition would be eased for a tolerable breathing time.

*The High School*

The total registration in the High School reached 129, a gain over last year—the Average Registration reached 122, a gain of 10 over last year—the Average Attendance 117, a gain of 12 over last year.

*Overcrowding in the Schools*

1. Sherman School: overflow from grade 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, to be sent to Pequot School, Southport.
2. Holland Hill: Kindergarten and First Grade on part time.
3. Washington School: Kindergarten and Grades 1 and 2 on part time.
4. Total grades on part time—5.

My suggestion for the relief of this congestion in the Washington School is to complete the Nathan Hale School by adding four extra rooms.

My suggestion at Holland Hill is to erect another school at some point midway between Sherman School and the present Holland Hill School—say near the Bridgeport Housing Association Development at Grasmere.

In 1921 Grasmere and the Greenfield addition were given the go ahead signal and in 1922 Lincoln and Nathan Hale were planned "to be completed immediately". A committee was also appointed for a new High School building and in November 1922 the plans were approved but action was not taken until 1925. To alleviate overcrowding at Holland Hill another portable building was ordered. They were still on half sessions even with this extra room.

The Commencements of the High School were held at Pequot School and then at the Community Theatre as were the 8th grade Graduations in later years. All graduates were dressed alike on that night except the girls wore kerchiefs of their school colors on their middy blouses and the boys wore neckties of similar hue. Green for Dwight, red for Sherman, blue for Grasmere, etc., etc.

In 1926 the Committee decided to close Banks North School as there were only 19 pupils in attendance—and to carry them to Dwight. Jefferson School also was closed as there were only 24 children there and in turn they were carried to Stratfield School. The next year Bancroft School too was closed.

On April 10, 1928 an eleven room school and an assembly room—the first part of Stratfield School of today was voted. In the interim a portable was moved to Lincoln to help with the large numbers of children.

Manual Training classes were planned next and an 8 room school in Tunxis Hill—McKinley was completed in 1929.

The Total Registration for all schools in 1927 was 3577.

Pequot .....	273
Sherman .....	373
Grasmere .....	355
Holland Hill .....	544
Silliman .....	150
Washington .....	440
Nathan Hale .....	376
Lincoln .....	384
Dwight .....	260
High School .....	422

In 1932 it was planned to close Silliman School. The people of the neighborhood requested that it be opened for at least one more year, but this petition was denied by a close vote at Town Meeting. Those in favor of keeping it open—"yes" 126, those opposed to keeping it open "no" 136.

The next year a new addition was planned for Roger Ludlowe High School and in 1933 all married teachers were eliminated from the teaching roles once again.





*The last Burr's District School  
or Brush Pasture School  
(The large tree still stands today)  
corner of Burr Street and Congress Street*



*Banks South School  
built about 1840—as it looked in 1925*





*Greenfield School in 1885—built in 1854 and the northeast corner of the present building.*

*Upper row—Mary Merwin, Helen Jennings, Emma Morehouse, Mary Fulton.*

*Lower row—Julia Brown, Fannie Siney, May Hull, Emma Jennings, Inez Hull.*



*Hoyden's Hill School or Hoytt's Hill*



*Bulkley's District School  
(At the intersection of Greenfield Hill  
Road and Mine Hill Road of today)*



*Hull's Farms School  
(1893)*

*Left to right—*

*Francis Blade  
Jessie Totten  
Sadie Sherwood  
Clarence Nichols  
Willis Mills  
Grace Bulkley  
Joseph Coskey  
Lee Thomas  
Howard Mills  
Nelson Bulkley*



*First Burr's District School  
(First school northeast of Greenfield  
Centre School)*



*Deerfield School—stood at the corner of Burr Street and North Street*





*Dwight School—Greenfield  
September, 1913*

*Grade 6-7-8—Northwest Room*

*Front row, l. to r.—Mary Lengel, Geraldine Olmstead, Blanche Wade, — MacDonal.*

*2nd row, l. to r.—Mary Wilson, Grace Banks, Mabel Smith, Viola Nichols.*

*3rd row— — Jankowski, Mamie Golasky.*

*4th row—Clara MacDonald, Dorothy Benedict, Elva Sherwood.*

*5th row—Michael Coskey, John Jennings, Jesse Metcalf, Jimmie Lobdell, Charles Andrews, Sidney Ferris, — Dietz, William Fallon.*



*1887—Dwight School*

*Beginning at left—W. E. Gardner, Principal*

*Etta Perry, Ass't.  
Emma Jennings  
Ed. Hejeron  
Julia Brown  
Clarence Thorp  
Helen Jennings  
Wesley Burr  
Eddie Finnerty  
Howard Gray  
Will Burr  
John Meeker  
Mamie Merwin  
Ike Banks*

*Burr Hill  
Perry Beers  
Jessie Price  
Clarence Banks  
Gussie Kitsky  
Gala Bradley  
Bessie Archibald  
Alice Finnerty  
Everett Lobdell  
Frank Wakeman  
Edward Bradley  
Jessie Beers  
Martin Whitaker*

*Also—  
Fanny Downs  
Ida —  
Henry —  
Elmer Downs  
George Meeker  
Walter Merwin  
Fred Banks  
Bradley Jennings  
Fred Hawkins  
Tommy Kirliy  
Willie —  
— —*





*Silliman School*



*The First Fairfield High School  
Formerly the Brown home—gift to the Town of  
Miss Annie B. Jennings*



*Washington School and Portable Annex*

*Bancroft School—Fairfield Woods District*



*Mill Plain District*





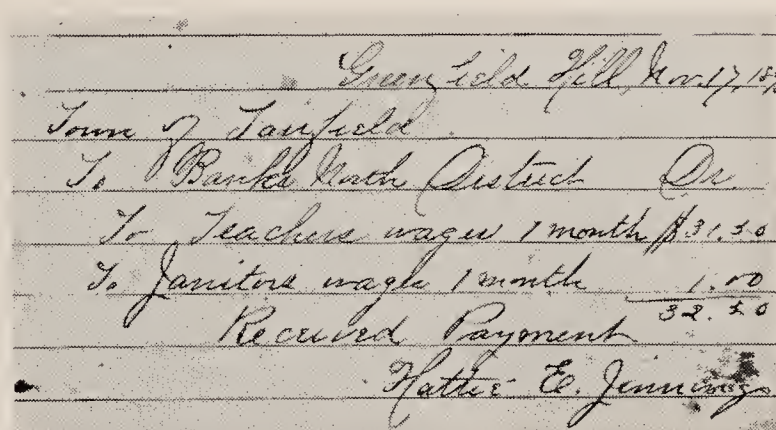


*Brush Pasture School (or Burr's District)—about 1892*

Front—Willie Johnson, — Lockwood.  
 2nd row, l. to r.—Daisy Waldman, Maude Wilson, Charlie Wilson, May Franklin, Mildred France, Mamie Johnson.  
 3rd row, l. to r.—Leora Wilson, Louella Tripp, Edward Morehouse, Mollie Morehouse, Lillie Lockwood. Teacher, Emma Jennings.



*Brown House—First High School*



*Teacher's Monthly Salary Receipt—1890*



*Mill Plain School—about 1890*

Among those in the picture are:—Evelyn Black, Alice Bonney, Helen Hotchkiss, Sadie Flanagan, Mary Flanagan, William Flanagan, Annie Drew, Minnie Drew, John Drew, Mamie Wells, Alec Hull, Anthony Parshley, Katie Culley, Jennie Flanagan, Florence Hull, Ernest Hull, Mary Smith, Dorothy Smith, Anna Keefe, Louise Everett, Elsie Jennings, Amy Jennings, Maggie Garrity, Tom Goodsell, Eddie Flanagan, Frank Banks, Annabelle Bonney, May Goodsell, Mary Vonek, Mamie Fenton, — Dooley, Jennie Ferris, Ernest Hull, Edna Goodsell, Mike Vonek.





*Banks North School—1894*

*Front—Curtis Taylor, Edwin Nichols, Irving Nichols, Roy Smith, Anna Liza Peet, Herbert Smith, Hattie Nichols. William Sherwood.*

*Back—Ada Jennings—Teacher, Nellie Smith, Minnie Rupli, Florence Bradley, Mamie Smith, Etta Nichols.*



*Taken 1903—Banks North School*

*Miss Cecilia Keane, Teacher*

*Top row—William Sherwood, Ed. Nichols, Herbert Smith, Ray Smith.*

*2nd row—Hattie Nichols, Ella Ferris, Luella Burr, Grace Burr, Mabel Sherwood, Edna Jennings.*

*1st row—Clayton Nichols, Seeley Jennings, John Ferris, John Golesky, George Ferris, Ted Nichols.*

*Dwight School wagon—driver  
Everett Banks—1919.*





1934 saw another addition to Roger Ludlowe and in 1935 a homework policy was established, a new Course of Study developed, and all schools were active in the Tercentenary Celebration of the State in 1935. See picture section.

The historical murals in the foyer of the Roger Ludlowe High School were given in part that year by the Graduating Class of 1935 as their class gift.

Further in 1935 there was some interest expressed in an additional two year program beyond High School as another section of the school program. A Junior College—but evidently there was not sufficient interest for the plan was never pursued.

At the Town Meeting held on September 4, 1935 the following resolution was presented, discussed at great length, and then laid on the table:

To authorize the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Fairfield to file an application to the United States of America through the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works for loans and/or grants to aid in financing the construction of the following projects:

1. Completion of Roger Ludlowe High School—enlarging the gymnasium and construction of a swimming pool.
2. Erection of a new Dwight School.
3. Erection of a new Washington School.
4. Auditorium addition for McKinley School.
5. Auditorium addition for Lincoln School.
6. Auditorium addition for Sherman School.
7. Auditorium addition for Grasmere School.
8. Stage onto auditorium and toilets for boys and girls in Stratfield School.

Some of these ideas set down years ago have been taken care of, others are yet to be realized.

In 1938 the Board voted to close Dwight, Washington and Holland Hill Schools as being dangerous for fire reasons and inadequate for school purposes. The list was soon withdrawn for residents of these school communities voiced loud and long their objections. Mass meetings were held, posters<sup>1</sup> appeared all over town and when the Town Meeting vote was taken these areas denounced the whole idea and Washington

and Dwight are still in use today although at this writing their remaining years of service are certainly numbered. (The Connecticut Thruway having necessitated the destruction of Holland Hill). The Resolution passed at the Town Meeting on May 10, 1938 follows: —

Whereas it has been decided by the School Board of the Town of Fairfield that certain of the grade schools in said Town shall be closed, and that pupils of such closed grade schools transferred to other grade schools within said Town of Fairfield; and

Whereas, we, the citizens and voters of said Town of Fairfield, object to the closing of said grade schools.

Now therefore, Be it Resolved, that we, the citizens and voters of the Town of Fairfield, hereby recommend to the School Board of said Town, that no grade schools shall be closed without the assent of the citizens and voters of said Town of Fairfield as expressed at a Town Meeting regularly called and convened for that purpose. Carried.

Again in 1938 there were great proposals for a new high school in the eastern section of town. At best to describe this, it would be fair to say that the Town was divided right down the middle—east and west! Those in the eastern part of town were for it, those on the western side said absolutely no. Those were *real* town meetings. People came by bus loads to be checked in, to stand up and be counted. Opinions were definite and tongues rang sharp. To care for the growing population an addition was planned for Roger Ludlowe in place of a new building. Because of the large numbers, High School classes were held at Sherman School which, too, was growing and the Sherman School families were glad to see the High School boys and girls relinquish their places at Sherman to children of that district, when the additional space at Roger Ludlowe was made ready.

These have only been some of the highlights of our growing town's growing schools. Our forebears have done the best job possible in their time for their children. Let us continue to move forward in the same pattern of forthrightness and foresight which they have exhibited.

1                      SAVE OUR GRADE SCHOOLS

Sherman	Holland Hill
Washington	Lincoln
Dwight	Nathan Hale

DOOMED TO BE CLOSED  
VOTE  
AGAINST THE CLOSING  
at the Town Meeting  
May 10, 1938                      High School Auditorium

John Alvord	William B. Hull
Nehemiah Banks	Lyman Hull
Ebenezer Banks	Polly Hull
Joseph Banks	Silliman Meeker
Joseph Banks	Burr Middlebrook
David Craft	William Sherwood
Samuel Craft	Sturges Sherwood
Sophia Davis	David Sherwood
Cornelius Hull	Samuel Sherwood
	James Redfield



## CHAPTER 12

### INDUSTRIOUS FAIRFIELD

This had been entitled Industrious Fairfield because that has been true of our town. At one point as the search for material went on, it seemed that a good title for this section would have been "Industries of Fairfield" but that would really not be a truism for this is not, nor has it been an Industrial Town but it certainly has been an industrious one.

The early town records show that in 1661:

The Towne orders that there shall be forthwith layed out to the mill ten acres of uplands as near the mill as may conveniently be and six acres of meadow at Hasseca meadowe, those lands to lay to the Towne Mill for the use of the miller.

The Towne hath chosen Mr. Gold, John Burr, & John Banks & doth impower them by those present in the behalf of the Towne to set to farm the Towne Mill to someone whom they shall think meet, that such grists of corn as are brought to the mill may be well ground for the 16th part: accepting of an equitable consideration between the miller & the Towne: they are also impowered if they see cause to put in a miller to belong to the mill upon equitable terms: As they shall think meet what agreement the above said persons make with the miller the Towne engageth to stand it.

And later:

The Towne hath this day voted: that they are willing to sell the Towne Mill: provided they can have such consideration as shall be bargained for as also: to have liberty at any time within three years after the bargain is made that the mill shall be returned to the Town if they did not like the miller and the consideration to be returned to the miller as also to have all their grists of corn well ground in some convenient time after it is brought for the 16th part: whereas there is Ogden of Long Island presents himself to buy the said mill upon the Terms aforesaid: the Towne doth impower Mr. Gold, John Banks, John Burr, Hump. Hide, John Cable & William Hill in behalf of the Towne to make sale of the said mill upon the terms aforesaid: to the said Ogden the town promiseth to stand to it provided it be not contrary to the terms aforesaid. The Towne hath voted that they will not grant to Ogden the 4 acres of land lying upon the Mill River by Goody Barlow's land.

And on the 25th of March 1662:

The Towne hath this day chosen Thomas Sherwood to be a miller and refers it to the three men they have chosen to be husbands about the mill to hire him and they have voted that all the grists that the inhabitants of the Towne would weekly have ground, shall be brought weekly to the mill upon Monday and Thursday in every week.

Thus the first business in town about which we have any information is a Mill—the Town Mill where all of the early folk brought their harvest to be ground for daily use.

The first reference to another business in the Town Meeting Minutes show that "John Cable hath liberty to build a small house adjoining to his shop provided he doth not come farther into the Highway than his shop now stands". What Mr. Cable did in his shop we do not know but certainly it was an early business of a sort.

The increasingly expanding importance of the Town Mill was evident again and again for at a Town Meeting held on June 19, 1662 it was decided not to grant Richard Ogden four acres of land for the use of the mill on Mill River, nor would they grant 30 days work for "Ogden's encouragement" to the mill. Instead the mill—dam and trench were to be finished immediately and John Banks and William Ward were chosen to oversee the work and if necessary to have a new trench and dam made. Workmen were to be paid no more than 3s/6 per day. A tax was levied upon the inhabitants to pay for the building of the Mill. Thomas Sherwood being the miller of the new mill on the Mill River was allowed the toll on the grist until Ogden's Mill was completed, provided he kept the "running gear in order". Toll at this time was 1/16. This meant that 1/16 of the total grist resulting from the corn being ground was taken by the miller as toll. This was of course a Town Mill and the inhabitants shared in the profits of corn meal. The records show "... day of distribution of what the inhabitants of the Towne are to receive of Ogden for the mill according to a just pro-



portion. The day of distribution is on a Monday, will be at seven at night”.

In the month of March 1659 the General Court ordered that each town in the colony should provide its mills “with a toll dish of just a quart, also a pottle dish of two quarts, a pint dish, and an instrument to strike with, fit for the purpose”, all of which should be sealed by the sealers of weights and measures.

Mill River emptied into the Sound through two channels in those early days. One at McKenzie’s point and the other as it is today at the end of the Harbor channel. The beach which reaches from McKenzie’s Point to the breakwater used to be a long island in the river’s mouth.

One can picture quite easily by following the town votes over the years the business expansion—centering mainly around the immediate needs of those industrious people for just a while later, land was granted by the Freemen for a tan yard “to tan such hides for ye towne as shall be brought to him for a valuable consideration and he is to mend such an highway near to said ground sufficiently”.

It was not too long before “There is liberty granted for any person to erect a fulling mill in ye towne”. A fulling mill was one which took oil from sheep’s wool so that the wool might be spun into yarn and there were quite a few of them in Fairfield as the years progressed.

Their willingness to encourage tradesmen to establish themselves locally was continuing, for on May 15, 1668 Humphrey Hide was given permission to build a shop upon his property.

Two years later the Towne Mill was again under discussion for this vote appears “. . . in the agreement with the Miller that if the Towne shall see cause to repossess the mill and land that Richard Ogden bought of them, the true intent of the Towne is that the premises both of the mill and land and housing returned shall be received according to their worth”.

Business must have been good, for some few years later “Richard Ogden hath liberty granted to him to erect a new mill upon the Mill River near the place where the mill now is upon such proportions as a committee chosen by the Towne shall be agreed to”.

As another two years passed their eagerness to expand businesses or trades in town was again evidenced in that they voted—“the Towne is very willing to give by way of encouragement to a Smith (a blacksmith) that is an honest man and

an able workman a piece of land not exceeding an acre to build upon provided he stay a competent time in Towne, as the Towne shall order and follow his trade”. Richard Burgess of Boston was chosen as the one to come and one reads for the first of April 1672 “Richard Burgess of Boston, a smith, the Towne entertaines if he will come among us some time this summer to follow his trade and to take the benefit of what is granted to such a smith the 28 January last, he performing such conditions as are there inserted”.

It seemed that a certain Enocke, also a smith who had apparently heeded the earlier general invitation to a smith to come and live among them, had not carried out the full rules and regulations of the Towne for “The Towne by vote orders that Enocke, the smith shall depart the Towne within this fortnight next ensuing from cohabiting. He under penalty of the law for his and whoever shall entertayne him after this time is expired for his and their default in the premises: Sergeant Squire is appointed to give him warning”. At the next meeting Enocke Boulton was permitted to stay two weeks longer.

The Townspeople were still trying to urge Mr. Burgess to come to Fairfield and they made him a new offer in February 1676—“Richard Burgess, a smith given 30 rods of land, 3 Acres of land for pasture if he will come within 8 months to Fairfield and continue and improve his labor as a smith within the Towne—if he doesn’t stay ten years the land will revert to the Towne—if he dies the land will go to his heirs”. Mr. Burgess was also granted an interest in the perpetual Common for pasture and wood when he actually came to Fairfield.

Peter Coley, who was the Sealer of Weights and Measures, as well as the sworn Packer of Meats for the Towne was granted by the Towne two rods square of land “to build a *shop* upon and he doth relinquish the former grant of land he hath by the pond granted him by Humphrey Hide. Frances Bradley is to lay it out”.

And “Ebhorn Wakeman is admitted to keep an ordinary (restaurant or inn) and place to have the use of the Calves pasture while he keeps the ordinary”. They truly rewarded those who came to live among them but they also were very selective of those who trespassed within the Town’s borders. For example: Major Gold was given permission to “entertayne his two new carpenters”—this was by formal vote at a Town Meeting.



In order to make the town self sufficient new inducements were ever foremost in the minds of the Townsmen. The Harbor (Black Rock) was planned and arranged in such a manner that it would encourage importing and exporting and by vote in 1676:

The Towne hath granted liberty to John Wheeler to erect a wharfe in the harbor at Black Rock: the wharfe is to be made from high water mark to the channel. It is to be for height above all ordinary Spring Tides. Richard Hubbell is to lay out the place. The Towne reserves this privilege. That the inhabitants of the Towne for the future forever: Shall have such goods of theirs that are proper goods that are exported and imported. They shall give only six pence per ton for wharfage: leaving the said John Wheeler to make his honest benefit of the wharfe with all persons whatever as they may have occasion except what is excepted. This grant is upon condition that he erect and finish this wharfe at or before this time to come two years.

Just four years later in 1680 — "George Searle, a tanner desires to set up his Trade of Tanning in the Towne provided he may have encouragement. The Towne leaves it to the Townsmen to make agreements with the said George concerning his entertainment in Towne. The Towne leaves it to the Townsmen to grant him a piece of land for his encouragement not exceeding an acre and a half".

In 1658 a law was passed that no leather should be sold without first having been sealed and labeled in the town where it was tanned under a penalty of jury trial and fine. Raw hides were not allowed to be sold out of the colony under a forfeiture of the hide.

In 1681 Peter Twiss was given permission to "cohabit in the Towne, to make and burn a kiln of Brick in Towne. This grant to continue for three months after this date and no longer except he hath further grant of clay and wood for the use above said: Provided he do not dammify the highways".

About that time John Jackson agreed with the Town to set up a grist mill and fulling mill at Uncoway River and Jacob Joy was welcomed to Towne to follow "ye trade of a Smith". He worked out well and was asked to continue his trade for his life. He was given land for his life use and 1½ acres at Calf Pasture for his own.

It was just then that William Thompson "ye shoo-maker" was ordered out of Towne.

John Seeley's tan yard was not convenient for the Tan fats and he was given new land. He later asked if he could move his saw mill to Sasco River. Their smiths had not worked out as they

had hoped for Whight Timbar, a dutchman, was given permission "to set up and work at his trade of smith".

It was just about that same time another Grist or Corn Mill was planned "on or about ye creek on ye right hand of the highway leading to ye water side at Paul's Neck or make use of ye creek before Daniel Silliman's for a Mill Pond".

On November 15, 1686 Mr. Glaswell was invited to set up his trade about making Carsy and Sarges. A Mill and land was granted to serve his houses. The same Mr. Glaswell was also given permission to locate a cloth mill in the Calf Pasture. No other person was to be allowed to come in to make cloth—"Towne grants 10 pounds to ye building of a workhouse for his trade. Ye house is to be 30 foot long in ye clear and 15 foot wide and eight foot between joints—anything inside house or to do with his trade, Mr. Glaswell is to do it".

The "Towne also giveth liberty to Arnold, a Smith, of Stamford to come to work in Town". Benjamin Dunen also "hath this day (March 4, 1786) leave given him upon his desire of ye same to come and live in town to follow ye trade of making shoes. It to continue so long as ye Towne sees cause". A Mr. Edwards must have been allowed in a little later for the records show that the "Townsmen are dissatisfied with Mr. Edward's prices of his cloth working".

Land was granted to Mr. Lillie for a Tan Yard but it would return to the Towne if he didn't meet conditions. Thomas Murwin also asked permission to set up Tan Fats by "ye creeke near his house". This was at Pine Creek.

John Sturges was given permission to set up a saw mill on Sasco River and John Beardsley of Stratford, a smith, was invited to come to Fairfield and set up his trade. Phillip Vickers was granted land to work on his trade of Smith.

Mr. Sturges a bit later relinquished his right and privilege granted him in Sasco Stream by the Towne to set up a Saw Mill there and Thomas Morehouse Sr. and Samuel Couch were allowed "to set up a saw mill on said river".

A second ordinary was permitted and Mr. John Edwards was chosen to keep the ordinary or a "house of entertaynement". He was also allowed to erect a fulling mill, perhaps as a side line.

In 1693 there was a complaint brought to the Towne against Richard Ogden and Moses Jackson in "their failure in grinding for the inhabitants. Captain Matthew Sherwood and Lieutenant



Bennett are desired and appointed by ye Towne to deal with said Moses Jackson about ye same that he might reforme". The Toll Mills continued until about 1900 and were Government controlled until that time and the miller was expected to grind the grain. It was also ordered that the "miller must keep the door of the mill locked and bolted for ye better security of the men's corn".

In 1690 the report to the King of England from Connecticut showed "Our manufactories are in considerable. Our people being generally employed in tilling the earth, some few are employed in tanning and shoe making and other handy crafts, others in building, Giner work, Tailors, Smiths without which we could not subsist".

As the town grew more mills were allowed and in all sections. Thomas Bedient was given liberty to erect a grist mill on Herdsmens Island (Tide Mill—Southport) and he then asked for use of the adjoining salt marsh while the people came to the mill. Nathan Gold was to erect a Corn Mill on old Mill Creek. Moses Dimon and Joseph Perry proposed for liberty to erect a grist mill at Herdsmens Island on "ye Mill River". John Whitney planned to build a Mill on Compo Creek. Dible also asked permission to erect a grist mill on Mill River. Thomas Ackley of Westchester was desirous of erecting a grist mill on Compo Creek. Ogden's Mill was destroyed by fire and then by storm and a committee appointed to consider a new mill. All grist mills were expected to be kept in order.

Joseph Perry was given permission to erect a fulling mill. Later he was given the land where the Mill Pond stood.

Thomas Nash, a smith, was given 1½ acres at Maxumux Farmes. A new smith's shop was set up "near ye brooke".

By 1712 Joseph Perry was given permission "to erect another mill or mills near where the current one stands". Robert Whitney "proposeth a grist mill on Sasco River where the Saw Mill stood" and Gershom Bulkley and Moses Ward were given liberty "to erect a fulling mill on Sasco River somewhere near John Smith's lot". Moses Dimon was chosen Tavern Keeper for that year. There must have been three taverns by 1715 for Capt. Moses Dimon, Benjamin Fairweather and Abigaile Couch were chosen Tavern Keepers then.

In 1721 a completely new venture was permitted, for Mr. Peter Ferris of Westchester was

given "the privilege of searching for mines and minerals in the Township of Fairfield"—searching and digging being permitted in Common lands for twenty years. The Towne was to receive 1/20 of all the ore that he should procure. He was not to dig in any highway or road passage however. No report is available as to whether or not this was a successful project. I did find this statement later on however "there are no minerals in town except several quarries of freestone valuable for building and other purposes . . . in the Greenfield Society—most important is at Blue Stone Hill about one mile from Greenfield Village". (This was on the former estate of the late Mr. and Mrs. George P. Brett Sr., Congress Street and Brett Road.)

It is also interesting to note that a Cooper was added to the list of Town Officers about this time and Moses Dimon was granted liberty to erect a grist mill on the Aspetuck River. At this same time Dimon and Sons were excused from working at the highways as long as they maintained a good cart bridge over the Aspetuck River. Daniel Crowfut was given permission to build a Saw Mill on the Aspetuck River and John Sanford was given permission "to build a grist mill on the Aspetuck River in Redding Parish on ye Upper Cross Highway".

We see this continuous spreading out of the business of the Towne. In 1728 John Dennie was permitted to have a new shop on the street "next to where the old one stood". It was allowed to remain for one more year as long as he paid what the committee thought satisfactory. Twenty shillings was decided upon by the committee as being reasonable.

More shops were planned by the Townsfolk and it was "put to vote whether Abraham Puling have liberty to set his shop in ye street adjoining to ye fence near ye South Corner of Capt. Dimon's cowyard during ye Town's pleasure—passed in ye affirmative". He was later given permission to erect a shop near Edward's Pond. One wonders whether this was the same shop and he had just changed his mind or whether he thought the new location would be more profitable after trying out the first place.

In 1732 it was—"put to vote whether Peter Thorp and Ebenezer Dimon shall have liberty to set a warehouse at ye lower ballas at ye Ash House Creek to be about thirty feet in length and twenty feet in breadth in such a place as said ballas as ye Committee here after appointed shall agree in ye affirmative".



Later Peter Penfield was given "liberty to build a grist mill on Ash House Creek" and Samuel Squire Junior and Ebenezer Wakeman were allowed to build a wharf on "ye ship Harbor near the Parsonage Meadow" and a warehouse on or near the same. It was required that this be built within three years.

On the 15th of August 1740 Samuel Burr, Andrew Burr and Ebenezer Silliman were appointed a Committee "to view ye mouth of ye Mill River and also ye whirlpool to see whether either of said places are convenient to build a Mill or Mills upon and also to treat with those persons that have a mind to build a mill or mills on said streams and see upon what terms they will do ye same and make report thereof to ye Town". The following January the Committee reported that the place was convenient for a mill or mills but that it was necessary to erect and maintain a cart bridge or causway from ye highway to Sterlings across ye beach and also a cart bridge across ye whirlpool.

Lieutenant Samuel Rowland was given permission to build a grist mill or mills and also to make and maintain such bridges, all work to be completed within two years from the first day of work.

All of those shops and mills were rather crude in nature for we find a report of the Committee chosen to view any encroachments on highways and their listing of what they were assessed for to be:

Salmon Wakeman .....	Cider mill	\$ .50
Hezekial Bradley .....	Store	.50
Rev. Wm. Belden .....	Store (old)	no tax
Alban Bradley .....	Cider mill	.50
Jonathan Banks .....	Cider Mill	.25
Hez'h Price .....	Cider Mill	.25

By 1758 another trade had come to Fairfield. John Whittier "shall have liberty to erect a small dwelling house in said Fairfield on ye southerly side of ye Country Road near where his bell founding shop now stands on such a place as shall be marked out".

Mrs. Schenck also tells about the bell for the new Congregational Church having been cast in Fairfield in 1751 by a jeweler and clockmaker by the name of Whiting. The bell was cast "in a lot adjoining that in which the second Church of England stood". This is the place where the Old Post Road meets Oldfield Road. This is mentioned again in 1800 as the "Old Bell House" which stood between Lothrop Lewis and

William Dimon's lots—road running from East-side of the parsonage lot so called westerly to the highway which leads to Whetstone Hill.

The Harbor continued to be a focal point of activity and Ichabod Wheeler was permitted "to build a wharfe on ye ship harbor near ye Money beach to be built in three years" and Thaddeus Burr was appointed to make a stonewall by the harbor. Permission was also granted to another land owner to build a wharf at Black Rock Harbor adjoining Capt. Wheeler's—this to be done within two years.

In 1788 "Thaddeus Burr, Joseph Strong, Esqr. and Captain Samuel Smedley be and are hereby appointed to a Committee with full power to lay out and bound out land belonging to the Town at Black Rock upper wharf . . . into proper lots for the building of wharves and stores upon for the accommodation of such gentlemen as may choose to establish themselves in trade at Black Rock".

An Account Book for 1789 gives us some idea of the cost of necessities in this period.

	£	s	d
1 hat .....	1/	9/	0
2 silk handkerchiefs .....	0/	12/	0
Picking & corn husking 3 days ....	0/	10/	6
1 bu. clams .....	0/	1/	0
Wood for my family for this month .....	1/	4/	0
1 bu. Indian meal at mill .....	0/	2/	6
1 bu. Rye at mill .....	0/	7/	0
1 bu. Wheat at mill .....	0/	6/	8
Beef .....	0/	2/	0 a pound
Leather for shoes for my daughter Jane .....	0/	7/	0
1 Kentile Codfish .....	1/	0/	0
1 bu. parsnips .....	0/	2/	6
For shoeing 2 yolk of cattle .....	0/	18/	0
2 qts. of oysters .....	0/	1/	0
1 pr. stockings .....	0/	3/	6
Wine for Deze (Negro slave) .....	0/	7/	6
1 barrel cider .....	0/	10/	0
Cash for calfskin .....	0/	8/	0
For making vest and britches .....	0/	16/	0

Following the Revolutionary War, Caleb Brewster who had then been so active on Long Island Sound during that period was given permission to remove his blacksmith shop from "where it now stands, a little north of Capt. Wheeler's wharf and to remove his store which now stands near his house to the place which he removes said blacksmith shop".

New roads were planned from the Black Rock Wharf to Weston and from Black Rock Harbor



to Trumbull to accommodate the increased traffic. Caleb Brewster and others were anxious to have the road to Weston started but it was opposed by the townspeople. Efforts were repeated in 1814 but the opposition held. At a later date the road was agreed upon and a special tax of 3¢ on the dollar was ordered. The shipping belonging to this port in 1816 amounted to 7033 tons.

Water lots had been laid out along the Harbor and in 1822 a Committee was empowered "to give deeds conveying the water lots now laid out at Black Rock . . . ". It was also believed that with the exception of New London, Black Rock was one of the best Harbors at that time with 19 feet of water below the middle ground at summer tides. Vessels could enter and depart from the harbor at any time of the tide.

The Saugatuck River too was being used and Captain Phineas Chapman was permitted "to build and erect a grist Mill on Saugatuck River at a small island below the bridge that leads from Fairfield to Norwalk to make a dam 31½ feet high". James Ketcham of Norwalk was given "liberty to erect a store on the northeasterly side of the Saugatuck River just below the bridge".

The Town was spreading out from its original Four Squares—in every direction and as it grew the businesses increased in numbers too. The Uncoway River or Rooster River in 1800 was said to have 2 grist mills on it. The tide set in about two miles. Navigation was obstructed by a Mill Dam at the mouth. In this stream were caught a great quantity of alewives or herring which were barreled up for market. There were also sea perch, crabs, and oysters. This river emptied into the sound west of Black Rock Harbor.

In 1800 there were two manufactories of leather and one of hats in Stratfield. The leather manufactured there in 1799 was 1050 hides and 700 calf skins.

In 1819 it was reported that coastal traders of the Sound could get about easily in Saugatuck Harbor although the harbor was frozen in the winter and the ice obstructed the vessels.

The importance of Mill River to the people shows again and again. The Town records show that "Samuel Whitney shall have liberty to erect a storehouse of about twenty feet in length and eighteen feet broad under ye bank of ye Mill River near ye upper Shipyard at ye Ram Pasture". Hezekiah Sturges and Moses Bulkley were given liberty "to build a wharf at Mill River,

80 feet in width near William Bulkley's shop and Nathaniel Perry was given permission to erect a fulling mill on Mill River below Peter Perry's grist mill". There was continuous activity on or near that waterway. On January 1, 1825 one brig, five schooners and twenty sloops were owned in Southport with a gross tonnage of 1900 tons. Fairfield was becoming a shipping center. Duties collected on imports of this town during the first 10 years of the new century amounted to:

1801 . . . . \$25,074	1806 . . . . \$29,638
1802 . . . . 17,905	1807 . . . . 20,661
1803 . . . . 17,263	1808 . . . . 1,810
1804 . . . . 19,037	1809 . . . . 1,159
1805 . . . . 23,164	1810 . . . . 6,229

William Bennett also proposed to erect a grist mill on Mill River near Bennett's dwelling house and it was "voted and agreed that the Selectmen give a lease of ye shipyard at the Ram Pasture to Charles Lewis for so long a time as they shall think proper reserving liberty for building vessels thereon when any person may have occasion for the same according to a former grant to be given without cost to ye Towne".

At Foot's Rock which was at the mouth of Mill River, Eliphalet Thorp, Zalmon Bradley, Walter Bradley and Samuel Cannon were given permission to build a wharf and buildings for the purpose of carrying on the business of navigation.

Water lots were laid out along the river and Mill River Rock against which Captain Whyght's vessel was driven and dashed to pieces was given to Captain Whyght. He was allowed to make a dock on the north side thereon if it were done within two years and provided it did not impede or hurt the navigation of Mill River. Whyght's Rock is a familiar spot to all of us who know Southport Harbor and Mill River today. This is at the mouth of the Harbor. (See picture section)

The War (Revolutionary) years showed little growth in the number of new mills or enterprises in town and according to the report of the burning, 15 shops and 15 stores were burned to the ground. On October 21, 1799 the Town Meeting "voted that this Town be willing that a lottery be granted by the General Assembly for the purpose of sinking the channel of the Mill River harbor and they request that any application of the like kind to said Assembly be by them considered not to be of an adversary nature as respects said town and that further notice be un-



necessary thereof to said Town.

Said votes truly taken—per

S. Rowland, Town Clerk”.

At that time there were eight buildings in Southport and one sloop ran between Boston and New York. There was also at least one store and wharf on the water front at that time. In 1774 a boat made regular trips to New York and carried both freight and passengers. By 1790 more than 10 vessels were registered out of Mill River (Southport).

In 1801 “Edmund Burr hath liberty to erect a mill and dam on the Mill River above and near the upper wharf belonging to the heirs of Peter Whitney—to be erected within three years”. A while later Benjamin Sturges was allowed “to erect a dam across Mill River so called at some convenient place between the Grist Mill of Jesse Wheeler and Hull’s Bridge so called and liberty is hereby granted to said Sturges, his heirs and assigns to erect a dam and such machinery for carding, spinning, weaving and manufacturing cloth as he may choose and for him, his heirs or assigns to have the use of said stream . . . with the liberty of two years to erect said dam and commence the business before mentioned . . . Edmund Burr Esq., Jesup Wakeman and Thomas Wheeler be a committee to designate the place for the aforementioned dam, etc.—provided that no expense is to arise to this town”.

In 1819 Mill River Harbor was reported to be very commodious for the coasting trade but not sufficiently deep to admit large vessels. “The Harbor being formed by the river of the same name upon which within a distance of 2 miles stand three large grain mills, two fulling mills and two carding machines”. It was seldom frozen at this period. 2500 tons of shipping were owned in Fairfield then. It was said that 100 sails a day passed by Fairfield.

In 1838 Southport or Mill River Harbor had 8 stores, a post office and a bank and more shipping was owned by this community in proportion to its size than in any other place between New York and Boston. The Harbor was small but sufficient to float vessels of about 100 tons burthen. In 1831 the United States Government granted \$10,000.00 for the improvement of the Harbor.

The great turnpike leading to New York passed through Fairfield making Fairfield easily accessible by land as well as by sea. The reports show however that the manufacturers were not

extensive but the milling business was listed as the most active. At that time there were nine grain mills, four of which were upon the tide water and several sets of stone employed principally in flouring wheat which was brought from other states. Some of the mills had kilns for drying Indian corn which was afterward manufactured for the foreign markets. The other mills were erected upon streams of water, the report went on to say. My guess is that there were many more than nine mills in Fairfield for the Town Meetings had certainly given liberty for more than that number before the War.

The grist mills ground several kinds of meal and flour. In order to have corn meal for a family’s own use the very best ears were chosen from all the corn and these were put through a corn sheller until there might be about a half bushel of kernels. Then they would be carefully winnowed and then taken to the miller at the mill to be ground into Indian Meal. A certain part of this was taken by the miller as toll just as it had been back in 1660 and earlier.

When it was very, very cold the early people would take their buckwheat to be ground. I’ve been told that this homegrown, neighborhood ground buckwheat flour made the best pancakes ever. One could have it ground at Dave Gould’s, the Tide Mill, Sipperley’s, the Wilson Brothers, Capt. Will Bradley’s, Bert Merwin’s, or over at the Bridgeport Hydraulic Mill at the foot of Samp Mortar Drive which the Brothwells ran, or at Aaron Gould’s in Southport or at Eli B. Nichols’ on Governor’s Lane just east of Bronson Road, or over at Happy Osborn’s on the east side of Sturges Highway just north of Hulls Farms Road, or over on Cross Highway just west of Merwin’s Lane.

You could also have your rye ground up for the pigs or your cob meal (the cobs and corn were ground together for the horses) ground. Oats and wheat could be taken care of as well.

An 1813 Mill Book shows these prices:

To grind 253 Bushels Wheat @ 12½	.....	\$31.63
To pack 45 barrels of flour @ 4½	.....	2.03
To inspect 17 barrels (bbls.) of corn @ 3¢.		.51
Nails .....		.10
To dry, grind & pack 66 Bush. corn @ 12½		8.25
To grind 105 Bush. wheat .....		12.39

Jonathan Bulkley wrote: “Mill River March 3, 1813. Mr. E. Dimon & his brother-in-law Eben Sherwood has purchased of his father Sherwood the Mill known by the name of Scribner’s Mill near Saugatuck price \$2000 dollars



—will cost about 2500 dollars more to put it in order for use”.

The 1811 map included in this writing shows where these mills were as does the 1867 map of the Town.

As the nineteenth century grew older, new establishments became a part of Fairfield. It was “voted that M. Wheeler Judson have liberty to erect a building for a Tailor’s shop on the easterly side of Edward’s Pond so called in some convenient place between the lands of Samuel Penfield (dec’d) estate and the Blacksmith Shop occupied by Nathan Burr and there to remain during the pleasure of the town and the location for said shop to be made by the Selectmen in such place as they may judge best”. These would have been near the Town Green of today.

In 1840 George Peck, George Burr, Samuel A. Nichols, Abm Benson, Aaron Burr and Lyman Banks were listed as Taverners with the legal right “to sell wines and spirituous liquors in the same manner”. There were six ordinaries in Town.

There were many cider mills in all sections of town—one near the residence of Albert W. Knapp, and another up on North Street where John Wakeman had a mill that ran by horse power. The apples were pressed by a mechanism which received its power by having a horse go round and round in a circle. This mechanism was a large wooden screw—2 feet in diameter and as the screw went down, the apple juice flowed out. The “Wilson boys” mill over on the Black Rock Turnpike, near the Merritt Parkway bridge, ran by water power. There was another not far from the Old Academy on the Old Post Road where the boys sipped cider with straws through the bungholes of the barrels on Saturdays. There were others at Joel Banks on Sasco Creek and on the Old King’s Highway at Morehouse’s and another was Moody’s Mill. Sweet cider was the favorite drink of the community.

There were numerous Saw Mills about. Frank Sherwood told of “drawing a log to Thompson’s Saw Mill” in February 1888. There was another at Capt. Will Bradley’s on Congress Street just north of the Merritt Parkway overpass. Another over at Joel Banks in Hulls Farms, still another at Wakeman’s on Sasco Creek and at Bulkleys on the same creek. Mill River had several along its banks as well.

The Goulds ran a wood working shop on the stream which goes under Black Rock Turnpike just below the Merritt Parkway. That was a

handle factory: probably axe handles were made there as well as were wooden handles for other tools. Hickory and Ash were undoubtedly the woods used because of their strength. That was also a favorite place for the girls of the neighborhood to find the first cowslips in the Spring and to go bathing on the warm summer days. A picture of that old mill is among the pictures in this book.

Hull Sherwood mentioned going to “Amos Burr’s Mill in Stratfield for a Cog Wheel”—a wooden cog wheel.

The Industries of Fairfield for 1845 listed in Industries of Connecticut—1845—compiled by Daniel P. Tyler, Secretary of State, are as follows:

#### INDUSTRIES OF FAIRFIELD — 1845

Flannel Manufactured 2,143 yds.—value \$857.20

Linen manufactured 200 yds.—value \$50.00

Coach, wagon, sleigh factories 5—value of manuf. \$5,500. Capital invested \$10,000.00. 16 people employed.

Fire Arms Factory 1. Arms manuf. 20 rifles, 30 muskets, tot. 50. Value \$600. Capital \$600. 2 employed.

Cooper Factories 2. Casks mauf.—value \$1,000. Capital \$1,900. 3 employed.

Tannery 1. Hides tanned 800. Leather mauf.—value \$3,000. Capital \$2,000. 3 employed.

Boots Manuf.—1850 pairs, shoes 5400 pairs—value \$9,600. 24 employed.

Bricks Manuf. 70,000—value \$350. 3 employed.

Brooms Manuf. 3,716—value \$464. 3 employed.

Firewood prepared for market 202 cords—value \$1,010. 5 employed.

Merino sheep 1056—value \$1,494. Wool produced 2640 lbs.—value \$792.

Horses 340—value \$16,631, neat cattle 1879—value \$37,883, swine 1066—value \$12,879.

Indian Corn 19,050 bu.—value \$14,287, wheat 1022 bu.—value \$1,149, rye 6,633 bu.—value \$5,306.40, barley 510 bu.—value \$306, oats 2579

bu.—value \$8,231.60, potatoes 26,689 bu.—value \$16,013.40, other esculents 10,913 bu.—value \$3,273.90, buckwheat 1,407 bu.—value. \$703.50.

Hay 3,606 tons,—value \$43,272.72, flax 1,590 lbs. value \$144.64.

Fruit 22,912 bu.—value \$4,582.40.

Eggs 340,000—value \$3,400. Poultry 19,800—value \$4,950.

Grass seed 11 bu.—value \$27.50.

Butter 51,504 lbs.—value \$7,210.56. Cheese 7,400 lbs.—value \$592. Honey 3,200 lbs.—value \$320.

Beeswax 265 lbs.—value \$66.25.

The New England Mercantile Union Directory for 1849 lists the following for industrious Fairfield —

New England Mercantile Union Directory—1849  
Lawyer—Thomas B. Osborne—Fairfield



Boot and Shoe Manufacturers—Bennett H. and A.  
 Coal Dealers—Pike and Sturgis, Southport  
 Dry Goods Dealers—A. Nichols, Southport  
 Dry Goods, Groceries and Variety—  
   Nichols and Betts, Fairfield  
   Jennings, Augustus, Southport  
   Bradley, W. and C. P., Greenfield  
   Burr, Lewis, Greenfield  
   Burr, Timothy, Greenfield  
 Furniture Manufacturers—Howell, William A.,  
   Fairfield  
 Lumber Dealers—  
   Bradley, David, Fairfield  
   Pike and Sturgis, Southport  
 Millinery and Fancy Goods—  
   Bulkley, Miss R., Southport  
 Physicians—  
   Jeremiah T. Denison, Fairfield  
   S. P. V. R. Ten Broeck, Fairfield  
   Rufus Blakeman, Greenfield  
   Justus Sherwood, Greenfield  
 Public Houses—  
   Black, Furman, Fairfield Marine Hotel, Bartram,  
   D. S., County House (Deputy Sheriff)  
 Saddle Tree Makers—  
   Sherman and Hawley, Southport  
 Schools—  
   Fairfield Academy—Rev. L. H. Atwater Presi-  
   dent, Chas. Bennett Sec. and Treas., Wm. E.  
   Moore A.B., Principal.  
 Tailors—  
   George Bulkley, Southport  
   Benjamin Sherwood, Fairfield  
 Tanners and Curriers—  
   Gallagher, Dennis, Southport  
 Tin, Sheet Iron and Copper Workers and Dealers  
 in Stoves and Hollow Ware—  
   Hall, C. B. and Brothers, Southport  
 West India Goods and Groceries—  
   Edmond Hobart, Fairfield  
   Isaac Bulkley Jr., Fairfield  
   Samuel Pike, Southport  
   Joseph Jenness (marketing), Southport  
   Pike and Sturgis, Southport  
   C. H. S. Wakeley, Fairfield  
   Meeker and Sherwood, Southport  
   Curtis Raymond, Southport

The 1850 Census shows that there were 3618  
 people in Fairfield. Of this number 417 were  
 said to be farmers, (Gideon Tomlinson and  
 Frederick Marquand were listed as Farmers)  
 65 were mariners or seamen or followed naviga-  
 tion in some manner, 42 were shoemakers, 11  
 were clergymen, 4 were physicians, 3 were law-  
 yers, 3 were coachmen, 3 were railroad agents,  
 1 was an insurance agent, 1 was a lighthouse  
 keeper and one was a patent medicine agent.

In addition to these there were many other  
 businesses in operation. To show the variety of  
 tradesmen that resided here at the time I am  
 listing a part of the remaining group.

## FAIRFIELD—1850 CENSUS

Austin Wheeler	Coach Trimming
Justus Smith	Iron Moulder
Justus Allen	Saddle Tree Smith
Curtis Rood	Carpenter
George Ogden	Carpenter
Peter Norman	Carpenter
John Hull	Machinist
George Hubbell	Machinist
Henry Rowland	Carpenter
William H. Webb	Silver Plater
Talcott Barlow	Carpenter
Horace Butler	Carpenter
Phineas T. Barnum	Museum Man
Wm. W. Naramore	Daguerrian Artist
Levi Wordin	Saddler
Thomas Wordin	Druggist
Bennett Whitney	Machinist
G. W. Middlebrooks	Manufacturer of bottled soda
Frederick Curtis	Grocer
David Brothwell	Coach Lace weaving
John A. Reed	Machinist
Edwin Weston	Machinist
Edwin Burley	Machinist
Charles Siever	Machinist
Eli Blakeman	Cane Seat Maker
Marquis L. Hall	Painter
James McCarrick	Coach Lace Weaver
Roswell Whitney	Machinist and foundry
Raymond Whitney	Machinist and foundry
Junius Foster	Patent iron axle tree
J. M. Middlebrooks	Boot crimping
William Leigh	Coach lace weaver
George C. Bradley	Hatter
John Marsh	Miller
James E. Beach	Venetian Blind maker
Wm. H. Brothwell	Tailor
Oscar Treadwell	House Carpenter
Wm. H. Herbert	Shoemaker
Wm. W. Herbert	House Carpenter
Morris Gould	Ship Carpenter
David Lockwood	Fruit and Fish Peddlar
Henry J. Wakeman	Joiner and Carpenter
Elbert Beach	Joiner and Carpenter
Sturges Seeley	Shoemaker
Abraham J. Myers	House painter
William H. Hawkins	Ship builder
Frederick Hawkins	Ship builder
Levi Stukon	Ship builder
Lewis Richards	Ship builder
George Richards	Ship Carpenter
George Mills	Ship Carpenter
Curtis Raymond	Ship Carpenter
George T. Solley	House Carpenter
Henry W. Fancher	Ship Carpenter
Sherman Fancher	Fisherman
Oliver Burr	House Carpenter
Jeremiah Jennings	Ship Carpenter
Wakeman Wilson	Ship Carpenter
Robert Deane	Pedlar
Roswell Wells	Pedlings
Charles Chinnock	Inventor
John Ogden	Merchant
Thomas Ranson	Merchant
William S. Turney	Carriage maker



David Smith	House Carpenter	William Burr	House Carpenter
William Smith	House Carpenter	John Simonson	House Painter
George H. Palme	House Carpenter	George Ferris	House Carpenter
George E. Shelton	Pedlar	Sylvester Mills	Railroad Track repairer
David Wakeman	Railroad Contractor	William Oates	Railroad Track repairer
Augustus Goulding	House Carpenter	Albert Talmadge	House Carpenter
Isaac W. Turney	Trading	Francis J. Turney	Fisherman
Burr H. Betts	Merchant	Burr Lyon	Shoemaker
Henry G. Graves	Blacksmith	Morris W. Lyon	Teacher
George W. Sherman	Trader	David B. Beers	Shoemaker
Gould Turney	Ship Carpenter	William Smith	House Painter
Abel Turney	Shoemaker	Samuel Perry	Undertaker
Henry Bennett	Shoemaker	Henry S. Thorp	Merchant
David H. Betts	Shoemaker	William H. Wayland	Carpenter
Charles Bennett	Shoemaker	William Coleman	Mason
Arthur Bennett	Shoemaker	Alva Hough	Miller
Aaron B. Meeker	Shoemaker	Orrin B. Gould	Miller
Nathaniel Burr	Carpenter	Ward Bulkley	Ship Carpenter
Michael Fox	Blacksmith	Allen Nichols	Merchant
Furman Slaback	Carriage manufacturer	John P. Corbusier	Cabinet maker
Ephriam Jennings	Blacksmith	Henry Baldwin	Collector of bills
David Mallory	Mason	Levi Stimson	Teacher
Jonathan Sturges	House Carpenter	Hiram A. Edmonds	Teacher
Strong Sturges	House Carpenter	Edward T. Hall	Tin Smith
Orville C. Morse	School Teacher	Levi Downs	Shoemaker
John Simonson	Market	Joseph Wells	House Carpenter
Gamaliel Smith	Carpenter	John Chamberlain	Cooper
James B. Thompson	Merchant	Albert E. Wood	Merchant
Columbus Sequine	Provision business	Timothy Williams	Boot and Shoemaker
George A. Houston	Coachman	John R. Williams	Teacher
James Dimon	Merchant	Benjamin Sherwood	Tailor
Edmund Hobart	Merchant	Thomas N. Brown	House Painter
Ransom Phillips	Carpenter	Francis Bulkley	Carriage Maker
James Barney	Coachman	William Bulkley	Livery
Daniel Bertram	Tailor	Munson Elwood	Boot and Shoemaker
Frederick A. Bertram	Butcher	Samuel Bunnell	Butcher
Rufus B. Banks	Butcher	Wm. Tindell	Oysterman
Michael Grace	Hostler	David Down	Shoemaker
Rufus Hoyt	Grocer	John Meeker	Tanner
George A. Phelps	Importer	Julius Pike	Merchant
Joseph G. Allen	Merchant	Wakeman B. Meeker	Merchant
Obediah W. Jones	Merchant	Simon Sherwood	Merchant
David Wakeley	Tailor	Benjamin Pomeroy	Merchant
Moses G. Betts	Merchant	Benjamin Bulkley	Livery
Joseph Roberts	Railroad track repairer	Edward Eddy	House Painter
Andrew Bulkley	Tailor	George Bulkley	Tailor
John Buckingham	Merchant	Patrick Riley	House Carpenter
Lewis Smith	Mason	Benjamin Stillman	Shoemaker
William H. Miller	Copyist	Patrick Griffin	Truckman
Lothrop L. Sturges	Merchant	Legrand Sherwood	House Carpenter
Samuel Trubee	Mason	Silas Lockwood	Cooper
Wm. Goulding	House Carpenter	Francis Jelliff	House Joiner
Barnabas Hulse	House Carpenter	Albert Turney	Painter
George E. Scofield	House Carpenter	David C. Dayton	Painter
Charles J. Judson	House Carpenter	Barney Seavey	Railroad track repairer
Augustus Goulding	House Carpenter	Joseph Jenning	Merchant
Samuel Boardman	House Carpenter	David Bradley	Merchant
William Houstin	Mason	Wm. H. Bradley	House Joiner
James Leary	Mason	Augustus Jennings	Merchant
David Trubee	Mason	George M. Hawkins	Blacksmith
Taphinah M. Miller	Carriage Maker	John Henrietta	Coopering
Charles B. Wakeley	Merchant	George Mills	House Carpenter
Charles Clark	House Carpenter	Nehemiah Jennings	Butcher
Samuel Jessup	House Carpenter	Horace F. Allen	Shoemaker
Charles Hallet	House Carpenter	Isaac W. Godfrey	Soap and Candle maker



Bennett Brag	Saddle tree maker
Thomas Hawkins	House Carpenter
Wm. A. Howell	Cabinet maker
Wm. M. Howell	Cabinet maker
Eli B. Nichols	Milling
Joseph P. Sturges	House Carpenter
Hezekiah Banks	Shoemaker
Charles Bradley	Merchant
William Bradley Jr.	Merchant
David Burr	Shoemaker
Samuel Grant	Shoemaker
Jonathan Sturges	Merchant
Bradley Merwin	House Carpenter
John G. D. McLellan	Blacksmith
Samuel S. Meeker	Peddler
Henry Bradley	Shirt Manufacturer
Andrew L. Hull	House Carpenter
William O. Ferguson	Shoemaker
Osias Roberts	Blacksmith
Morris Merwin	House Carpenter
David Wheeler Jr.	Carriage Trimmer
John A. Wilson	House Carpenter
Ed. B. Sturges	House Carpenter
Silas Wilson	Miller
Aaron B. Bradley	Shoemaker
Hiram Hale	Blacksmith
Anson S. Hale	Blacksmith
Henry Gould	Wood Turner
Richard B. Jennings	House Carpenter
Charles W. Wilson	House Carpenter
Lorenzo Gould	Peddler
Alden Gould	Brick maker
Warren Nichols	Shoemaker
Silas Nichols	House Carpenter
John Moody	Milling
Phineas White	Blacksmith
Henry G. Wilson	Wagon Maker
Cyrus Turney	Shoemaker
George Wakeman	House Carpenter
George Burr	Merchant
Michael B. Lacey	Bootmaker
Erastus B. Fisher	Bootmaker
James Jones	House Painter
Barak T. Burr	Merchant
John Burr	Shoemaker
George Burr	Shoemaker
Marcus Burr	Shoemaker
Wm. Nichols	House Carpenter
Lewis Burr	Merchant
Frederick Leudwig	Saddler
Wm. Brown	Mechanic
Luther G. Lockwood	Wagon Making
Wm. Fletcher	House Carpenter
Abram A. Banks	Teacher
Jeremiah Grumman	Shoemaking
Austin Grumman	Shoemaking
Benj. Hull	House Carpenter
Alfred Burr	Shoemaker
James Goodsell	Shoemaker
Thomas A. Griffith	Shoemaker
Aaron B. Wakeman	School teacher
Thomas Goodsell	House Carpenter
Gerard Perry	House Carpenter
Andrew Wakeman	Mason
Asahel Gray	Shoemaker

James Lyon	Shoemaker
Ephraim Morris	Shoemaker
William Lyon	House Carpenter
Benj. Middlebrooks	House Carpenter
Elkana Brotherton	House Carpenter
Franklin Smith	House Carpenter
Aaron D. Wilson	House Carpenter
Edwin Williams	Shoemaker
Michael O'Calleahan	Mill Stone maker
David Marsh	Machinist
Sherman Blakeman	Blacksmith
Henry Wilson	Makes saddles and C nails
Bradley N. Lyon	Shoemaker
Horace Lyon	Shoemaker
Horace Nichols	Shoemaker
John Atkinson	Bootmaker
Harry Haight	Carriage manufacturer
Joseph Haight	Carriage manufacturer
Silas Turney	Mason
John Provost	Carriage Manufacturer

The 1867 Atlas listed the following businesses in town:

#### Greenfield Hill

Bradley, Wm., dealer in Dry Goods and Groceries.

Bradley, Henry, P. O. and Grocery Store.

#### Southport

Alvord, E. J., Attorney at Law.

Banks & Sherwood, dealers in Groceries and Shippers of Produce.

Baker, Geo., dealer in Groceries and Provisions.

Bulkley, Miss Rosalie, Milliner.

Bulkley, Lot, dealer in Groceries, Foreign and Domestic Fruit.

Bradley, T. S., P. O., dealer in Hardware, Paints and Oils.

Bulkley, Wm., Butcher.

Bradley, Wm. H., House Joiner.

Eddy, Edward, Grainer and Painter.

Godfrey, Jonathan, Shipping Merchant.

Jelliff & Northrop, Building and Lumber dealers.

Jennings & Son, Shippers of Produce and General Merchandise.

Jennings, J. Fred, Druggist and Apothecary.

Jennings, Augustus, Paper Stock.

Meeker, W. B., Shipper of Produce and General Merchandise.

Meeker, John, Manufacturer of Leather.

Nichols, Allen, Dry Goods, Boots, Shoes and Ready Made Clothing.

Nichols, E. B., Miller.

Pomroy, Benj., Manufacturing Stationer.

Sherwood, Benj., Tailor.

Sherwood, Justus, Practising Physician.

Wood, J. H., dealer in Boots, Shoes, Hats, Caps and Furnishing Goods.

Whitehead, D. B., dealer in Stoves, Tinware, etc.

#### Fairfield

F. Bartram, Provision Dealer.

Betts, M. G., dealer in General Merchandise.

Carrigan, P. D., Prop'r. Fairfield House.

Denison, J. F., Practicing Physician.

Hobart, Edmund, P. O. and Grocery Store.

Jennings, Horace, Butcher.

Sherwood, L. G., Fairfield House Livery Stable.



Slayback, F., Wagon Maker.

#### Black Rock

Burr, F. E., Ship Stores and Groceries.

Gould, Morris, Carpenter.

Howes, Wm., Coal Dealer.

Rew & Walker, Builders and Repairers of Ships  
and owners of Railways.

Solly, Geo. T., Carpenter.

Then the Railroad and the Street Car came to Fairfield and through the second half of the 1800's more and more activity took place. The advertisements in the papers tell of the available goods and services of Fairfield and many of them are included here for posterity. Wool was the main product of the early community, then came flax, grain and finally onions. Mrs. Bradley Jennings told me that as late as 1911 when she first moved to her home at the corner of Redding Road and Hull's Farms Road that she could look across the valley toward the then O. G. Jennings' Estate and see acres and acres of Rye. As the afternoon sun lighted each ripen head in the summer, she said it resembled a carpet of gold.

There is quite a bit of information available about shoemaking in Fairfield during the century past and even a bit earlier. Mr. Homer Sturges told me that he remembered Anson Lyon's Shoe Shop on Fairfield Woods Road where Applegate Road now joins it. It was a two family house and one would go up a pair of winding stairs to the Cobbler shop on the second floor. Each Christmas Mr. Sturges received a pair of little leather boots and a pair of rubber boots. The leather boots or shoes came up to the knees and were given special care for school and church. Bare feet were the style for summer. The boots were made of hard leather and every night they were carefully greased in order to soften them for school the next day.

Mr. Francis Perry told me that a pair of shoes made by a shoemaker about 1875 would cost a quarter of a hog or a beef. Money was scarce. Children wore shoes to school in the winter but went barefoot in the summer months to make their shoes last longer. They were like a little boot, a leather boot. The story goes too that the children often carried their shoes in hand as they wended their way to school or church in order to save the wear.

There was another shoe shop on North Street and here Ephraim Nichols made work shoes, and women's shoes out of calf skin. William Nichols was a Tanner and his vats were just beyond on North Street near the Craik place. There he

tanned the leather for Ephraim's shoes. The soles of these boots were put on with little wooden pegs made of seasoned maple— $\frac{1}{8}$ " square and pointed on one end. After they were all in place, the cobbler ran a rasp around the inside of the shoes to smooth off the pegs, Mr. William Sherwood told me.

Asahel Gray also ran a shoe shop in Greenfield as did Mr. Pattison in Mill Plain. Mr. Bennett's was in Mill River, and Eben Beers and David Osborn had shops in Mill Plain. H. Davis sold shoes in 1815 for a dollar a pair according to Hull Sherwood. Limon Godfrey also made him a pair another year as did L. Brown.

About 1845 or earlier Sam Grant moved the old district schoolhouse from the Green in Greenfield to his place on Hillside Road and used it for a shoeshop.

The shoemakers often travelled about from home to home and either made or repaired shoes for the entire family during their stay.

On May 28, 1812 Hull Sherwood said—"Cloudy and rain in the P.M. I planted some pumpkin seeds which I bought down the country. Limon Godfrey made Eleanor a pair of shoes". On May 30 he continued his work for we find "... Mr. Godfrey made James and Eunice a pair of shoes. Mr. Stratton caught 24 shad at Mill River". Then on June 1 "... Limon Godfrey made shoes here", and again on June 2 "... Limon Godfrey made me a pair of small calfskin shoes ...".

They generally supplied their own leather for the shoes and the Cobbler brought his own tools with him. Again he wrote on December 1, 1812 "... Very mild weather for the season and the ground full of water. In the A.M. we cleared the barn floor of Corn and husks. I then set the Frost fish pots and came home and threshed a flooring of wheat. Father went and got some leather —".

And on December 7 "Limon Godfrey made me a pair of shoes".

December 8 "Limon mended us some shoes".

Prices varied from year to year. In 1775 these prevailed:

To making 3 prs. of shoes .....	0/5/6
To making 2 prs. of shoes .....	0/3/8
In 1790 these were current:	
Making shoes .....	0/2/0
Mending shoes and boots .....	0/0/2
Soling .....	0/1/6
Soling 1 pair shoes .....	0/1/0
Soling 1 pair shoes .....	0/0/6
Making 2 prs. shoes .....	0/4/0
Mending 1 pr. shoes in shop .....	0/2/6



And in 1798 it would cost:

Making 1 pair shoes	}	0/4/6
Soling 2 pair shoes		
Making 3 pair shoes	}	0/6/0
Caping 1 pair shoes		
For soling 1 pair shoes		0/0/9

And in 1802:

Soling shoes	0/2/0
Making 2 pairs small shoes for girls	0/4/0

Another traveling tradesman was the Tailor. He came and stayed at the house as long as there was work for him. Hull Sherwood said in 1815 "Today Mr. Joseph Davis tailors here for Benjamin on a suit of clothes his Grandpa gave him". Another time he said "Today my tailors come—Mr. Beers and Miss Dimon, and I have a new coat and pantaloons begun. I have one suit and father has two". He said too—"I carry a piece of cloth to Joseph Bulkley and he cuts me a pair of pantaloons" and "Mr. Joshua Davis tailored here. I had a vest made and James a coat". Jonathan Bulkley wrote on July 9, 1816 that Mr. Mallory had made him a suit of clothes.

I found one reference to a barber. I imagine the often mentioned bowl was generally used by the father of the house to perform this necessity. Jesse Banks must have been a community barber for Hull Sherwood tells of "riding up to Jesse Banks got my hair cut", and W. Sherwood was perhaps the Dentist for Mr. Sherwood recorded having a "tooth Drawn at W. Sherwoods".

The Traveling Butcher was another familiar tradesman to the Fairfield folk. Edgar Wilson who lived at the corner of Stratfield Road and Cornell Street delivered meat to all of the neighbors in the eastern section of town. He came in his butcher wagon once each week and sold the best meat to all of the housewives, as they answered the ringing of his large bell by bringing out their platters.

John Fanton covered the Greenfield Hill area twice each week with his wagon and never missed a trip for 25 years. He too would ring his bell in front of the house and those who desired to purchase some steaks or chops came out to the wagon. In the event of rain he just pushed up the back and made a shelter for his customers. He butchered 15-20 head each week and his cuts included calves, hogs, beef and sheep.

David Hall made the route around Hoyden's Hill in his meat wagon.

A good picture of the Bulkley and Elwood Meat Wagons is included in the picture section here. William P. Bulkley and Clayton S. Elwood

ran a traveling Butcher Wagon around the eastern and western sections of town. Mr. Bulkley told me that there were hooks on both sides of the inside of the wagon and there hung the several cuts of meat. Each housewife would come out, peer in the back of the wagon and select her Sunday dinner. Just behind the seat of the wagon was a meat block where the cuts could be made smaller.

There were also fish peddlers at that time who went around from door to door. Jack Brady had a fish wagon as did a chap from Westport by the name of Hull.

I want to mention too the early milkman. Mrs. Wilmer Pratt told me that her family hung their milk pail on the gate post and every morning, their milkman, Mr. Everett Sherwood would stop with his cart loaded with milk cans, bail out enough milk to fill the pail, put on the lid and go on to the next house. Two dippers full made a quart! Mr. Frank H. Wade was also one of the very first milkmen in Fairfield and a delightful picture of his delivery wagon is with the other pictures here. This business is still carried on by members of his family.

General stores were quite numerous in all areas of town. One of these stores in the center of Town was Silliman and White. That is one of the first about which we have any definite information. The two advertisements which follow, appear in the May 27, 1785 and June 18, 1785 issues of the Connecticut Journal printed in New Haven.

In the Night Season next succeeding the 26th Instant, the notorious burglarian Moses Johnson broke open the common Gaol in Fairfield, in the County of Fairfield, and escaped.

Whoever will apprehend said Johnson and him return to me at said Gaol, shall be paid a reward of TEN Dollars and be further allowed for all necessary cost and charge.

Ephraim Robbins, Gaoler

Fairfield, May 27, 1785

#### TWENTY DOLLARS REWARD

Last night the store of Silliman and White was broken open, and from thence stolen, one piece Honey Comb Velvet, four pieces of linen, several pieces of Gauze, one piece striped chintz of a very elegant figure, one piece of black Barcelona Handkerchiefs, three pieces of light Callico, one pack women's leather mitts, a small sum of cash, and a number of other articles. Also stolen from Capt. Abijah Morehouse, twenty-five yards fine home-made linen cloth part whitened, the thieves are supposed to be one Moses Johnson and Abner Mack, who have lately broke Gaol, Johnson from Fairfield and Mack from Hartford; they are two notorious



villains and are trim built, grey eyes, and are likely rascals to look at. Mack is rather small and Johnson of middling stature. The Gaoler in Fairfield has offered a reward of Ten Dollars for Johnson. For the thief or thieves, and as many of the Goods as can be found, the above reward shall be given and all reasonable charges paid by Silliman and White. Fairfield, 18th June 1785

Later Capt. Grumman ran a store and Tavern on Catamount Road. Brazilla Banks a store and Post Office at the top of Greenfield Hill, George Platt a store and grist mill in Plattsville and offered everything from a spool of cotton to meat, crackers, sugar, flour and was complete with a pot bellied stove. Henry Bradley specialized in meat and groceries up on Hillside Road and there is a picture of this store in the picture section of this book. Jonathan Banks' place on Congress Street was known for its clothes, boots, horse blankets, skates and groceries. Timothy Burr's store on Burr Street boasted the best hay forks ever. Louis Burr also ran a general store on Burr Street in the 1800's. Another was in Hulls Farms on Cedar Road just west of Hull's Highway and still another just to the rear of the Greenfield Hill Church—owned and operated by Joseph Bulkley.

In the early 1800's, just around the Green alone at the top of Greenfield Hill there were stores at the sites of the homes of the late: Colonel A. R. T. Nichols—currently property of Mr. and Mrs. Leete Doty; Major Bradley—currently property of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene M. Moore; Mrs. Milbank—currently site of the Church House; Miss Murray—currently home of Mr. and Mrs. William Dennler; Henry Bulkley; Elizabeth Bulkley—currently home of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Pope Jr.; and also at the site of the Post Office. As the century turned only Brazilla Banks' and G. H. Bradley's on Hillside Road remained.

An interesting episode took place in the store of Lewis and Timothy Burr on Burr Street, most recently the property of Mr. and Mrs. Mather K. Whitehead. The men of the district used to gather around a cozy fire to enjoy a pleasant evening. While the men were enjoying one of these evenings, they decided to find a name for the street on which some of them lived. One resident of the Street was Hiram Thorpe known by his friends as "President Thorpe". Another was called "Senator Hale" and inasmuch as they already had a "president" and a "senator", they named the street Congress Street. At that time Congress Street ran from Black Rock Turnpike to Burr

Street. It was later extended east to Sport Hill and west to North Street, thus making it one of the longest streets in Fairfield.

As the 19th century became late, Benjamin Betts (and his father Moses Betts before him in early 1800) ran a large retail business of dry goods, groceries and general merchandise. Miles Wyrzten ran a grocery store as did E. W. S. Pickett. Mr. Betts offered delivery service to the beach during the summer months. He would have one of his men drive down to the beach in the morning, take the orders, and then return with the requested articles in the afternoon. There was no road but the horse would find his way right along the sand. There were always a good many campers near the current site of the Fairfield Beach Club and they were always especially good customers.

Mr. Pickett came to Fairfield in 1877 seeking work in a store. He worked for Mr. Benjamin Betts for 13 years and then started his own general store. A picture is included here. His store stood on the corner of Sanford Street and the Boston Post Road. This store had the first plate glass windows in town.

A picture of Moses Betts' store as it appeared in 1825 is included in the picture section as is a picture of Benjamin Betts' Store which stood at the corner of the Post Road and Unquowa Place where the Mercurio Building now stands. Moses Betts' store stood on the northeast corner of the Old Post Road where Oldfield Road joins it.

John E. Boyle opened his store in 1903 and this report appeared in the New York Herald on June 7, 1908.

A conspicuous type of the progressive and successful young business man of today is embodied in Mr. John E. Boyle, the popular and energetic proprietor of Fairfield's leading pharmacy and general store. Mr. Boyle came here from Bridgeport three years ago with a capital of \$35.00, but with a large stock of industry and business ability. Today his capital has been multiplied two hundred times, and he has a patronage second to few drug stores in the State. Although engrossed in business, Mr. Boyle is a social favorite.

As the years went on some of these businesses prospered while others closed their doors to give way to stores of a more specialized nature. The advertisements in the early issues of the Southport Chronicle tell us clearly about the businesses in that part of town at the close of the last century. Many are included here.



**GO TO THE UNION MARKET,**  
Corner of Main, Water and Center Streets,  
To get your

Beef, Veal, Pork, Lamb, Mutton,  
Pork and Beef Hams, Leaf  
Lard, also all kinds of  
Poultry, Game, and Vegetables.

Here everything is warranted to be the very best.

**N. JENNINGS**

Southport, Dec. 1, 1868

\* \* \*

Miss R. BULKLEY has just received from Auction a large assortment of Ladies BONNETS, Ladies and Children's JOCKEYS which she is selling at very low prices.

JOCKEYS for 25 cents, that are usually \$1.00.

Also a full assortment of

RIBBONS, FLOWERS and Fancy Goods  
of every description.

Southport, May 1st, 1868.

\* \* \*

**HORSE and OX SHOEING and GENERAL  
BLACKSMITHING.**

The subscribers are prepared to do shoeing according to the most IMPROVED PLANS (as taught by Professors YORK and WILLIAMS) for the prevention of interfering, Clicking or Over-reaching and Contraction of the Feet.

**FEET THAT HAVE BECOME CONTRACTED  
FROM IMPROPER SHOEING**

**RESTORED TO THE NATURAL FORM  
SATISFACTION TO ALL GUARANTEED.**

COLTS properly handled and taught to stand quietly for shoeing. Bring them in.

**G. D. McLELLEN & SONS**

\* \* \*

**UNION IS STRENGTH**

Messrs McCARRICK and WIRTZ

Manufacture and keep constantly on hand  
HARNESSES of all descriptions, made from  
the VERY BEST of stock.

**ALL WORK**

Warranted to give perfect satisfaction. REPAIRING  
neatly done, and promptly attended to.

We keep also, PURE NEATS-FOOT OIL  
AXLE OIL and HARNESS POLISH

Give US a Call.

\* \* \*

**UNDERTAKER**

The undersigned begs to inform his friends and the public in Southport and vicinity, that he is now fully prepared to offer his services as Undertaker.

Interments procured in any Cemetery, either in this State or New York. Bodies carefully removed from one burial place to another. Head Stones furnished from the best makers.

He undertakes to furnish EVERY ARTICLE needed at Funerals, and trusts by close application and PROMPT ATTENTION, together with FAIR CHARGES, to gain confidence and patronage of the public.

Orders left at his residence, two doors north of Jennings' "Union Market", will be punctually attended to.

**WM. H. JOHNSON**

Southport, Dec. 15th, 1868

**REMOVAL . . . .**

**EDWARD HENSHAW**

Formerly of the firm of Bulkley & Henshaw, has removed from the old Stable to the new one on Pequot Ave., which is neatly fitted up for the purpose of a LIVERY AND SALES STABLE.

Referring to the above removal I would respectfully solicit a continuance of the kind patronage hitherto so liberally extended to me, and it will be my constant endeavor to merit the confidence of my customers.

**EDWARD HENSHAW, PROPRIETOR**

Some good horses for sale or exchange, also several second hand carriages for sale at Henshaw's Livery Stables.

Southport, July 1st, 1868.

\* \* \*

**GO TO**

**J. H. WOOD'S**

**FOR BOOTS AND SHOES**

**PRICES GREATLY REDUCED.**

No more exorbitant profits to cover losses from bad debts, as our terms are STRICTLY CASH.

Goods all marked in plain figures, which

**WILL NOT BE DEVIATED FROM**

**EXCEPT IN BILLS AMOUNTING TO \$10 OR  
OVER,** when a discount of 2 per cent will be made.

N. B.—All persons having long standing accounts with the subscriber are requested to call and settle immediately.

**J. H. WOOD**

\* \* \*

Having reduced my old stock of goods to the lowest possible point, I have just replenished with by far the largest and most complete assortment of  
**BOOTS & SHOES**

ever offered by me. These goods are adapted to the Spring and Summer trade, and having been purchased since the recent fall in gold, they will be sold at prices that defy competition.

Particular attention paid to our custom and repairing department.

A good assortment of Mens' and Boys' HATS, CAPS, AND FURNISHING GOODS on hand.

**J. H. WOOD**

Southport, April 1, 1870

\* \* \*

**SELLING OFF.**

We beg leave to inform our Customers and Friends that we now offer our Entire Stock of Goods, Consisting of

Groceries, Flour, Feed & Grain,

Crockery, Glass Ware, Wooden

Ware, Boots & Shoes,

Farming Implements, &c.,

**AT REDUCED PRICES,**

**FOR CASH,**

As we intend to make a change in our business the first of May.

**BANKS & SHERWOOD.**

Persons indebted to the above Firm on Book account, will please settle with as little delay as possible.

Southport, April 6, 1870



*Old Saw Mill  
and Handle Factory  
D. E. Gould  
1867*



*D. E. Gould's Mill Water Wheel*

*Left to right—Bessie Jennings, Helen Jennings, Grace Gould, Emma Jennings, Ada Jennings, Amelia Jennings (standing right), Georgia Gould (standing alone in back).*

*(Just off Black Rock Turnpike—south of Congress Street)*



*The Fairfield Aluminum Foundry Company as it appeared about 1910*





*Carey's Corner—Southport*



*Perry's Mill—1898*



*Tide Mill—Southport*



*Henry Bradley's Store—Greenfield Hill*

*Lane's Wagon Shop—Southport*









*E. W. S. Pickett's Store  
L. to R.*

*George Smith  
Mr. Pickett  
Louise Odell*



*Frank H. Wade  
First Milk Wagon  
1904*



*McGarry's Blacksmith Shop  
Post Road, Fairfield*

*Interior  
McGarry's Blacksmith Shop—1918  
L. to R.*

*William McGarry  
James Peters  
John McGarry*





*Post Office—Ice Cold Soda  
Charles B. Wakelee, Postmaster from  
1862-1882*

*“Soda and Stationery”*

*This store stood at the corner of Un-  
quowa Place and the Post Road (later  
site of John Boyle’s store) now site of  
Connecticut National Bank. (1960)*

*“He had a recipe for the best soda and  
people came from miles around to have  
some of his soda—even as far away as  
Bridgeport.”*

*Mr. Kinsella later bought all of this  
property from Frank Wakelee—son of  
Charles B.*



*M. B. Lacey’s  
Carriage Painting  
and  
Repair Shop—  
Plattsville*



*Main Street  
Southport*





Bill Heads and Bills  
from early Fairfield  
Businesses

Greenfield Mill, Conn. 11. 6. 1899  
A 722  
made 10/00


Frederick Branson  
To William Fallon, Dr,  
Practical Horse Shoer and General Jobber.  
Special attention given to Lameness and Interfering Horses. Prices Reasonable.  
1000, BRIDGTON AVENUE.

Date	Description	Amount
Oct. 29	To 8 new shoes Kather's Farm	\$2.50
Nov. 5	Mending hors on face	1.00
18	4 new shoes Pilot	2.50
24	Mending hors shodding pigs	2.50
31	8 new shoes Kather's Farm	2.50
Dec. 1	4 " " " " "	1.25
13	6 " " " " "	2.50
29	4 " " " " "	1.25
Jan. 2	8 new shoes Kather's Farm	2.50
11	4 " " " " "	1.25
12	4 " " " " "	1.25
13	8 " " " " "	2.50
31	8 " " " " "	2.50
Feb. 15	4 " " " " "	1.25
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$23.57</b>

Recd Payment Wm Fallon

Southport, Conn. Feb 2 1899  
M. F. Branson  
BOUGHT OF C. O. JELLIFF & CO.,  
General Store.

HARDWARE DEPT.

 **CHILTON PAINT**  
50 DIFFERENT SHADES. Covers the Most Surface, and Lasts Longest.

Date	Description	Amount
Feb 1	Bill Rendell	2.41
	bottom pins	1.20
13	2 bot. oil	1.20
	1 brush	90
	2 oil cans	1.00
	1 "	1.00
	12 1/2 Lead	82
19	1 Basket	50
21	1/2 doz. screws 1x8	25
	1 " " 1 1/2 x 10	35
23	Rep. Wheel	20
25	2 doz cups of Sams	1.70
	2 " " " "	70
	<b>Total</b>	<b>10.75</b>

Recd Payment C. O. Jelliff

TELEPHONE 942-2  
Mr. Frederick Branson  
TO FAIRFIELD SPRING WATER CO., DR.  
Spring Water. Meadow Brook Farm, Bridgeport, Conn.

July 12 1899  
10 gal. Spring Water  
Consolidated U.S.B.

Recd Pay  
L. J. Branson

Relate 1899 21 1899 return of container - good condition.



Label from bottle of  
Mohican Spring Water Soda  
1906



**B. F. BULKLEY,**  
DEALER IN  
**SASACO LAKE**  
\* **ICE.** \*  
Which Has a Reputation of Over 50 Years  
ALSO  
AUCTIONEER AND GENERAL MECHANIC!  
If You Have a Job that no one else can do,  
Call on me and I will get there.



*Bulkley's Ice Wagon*



*Bulkley and Elwood—Meat Wagons—1912*  
L. to R.—Arthur Colepaugh, William Bulkley, Clayton S. Elwood



*Christopher Columbus Wells—Civil War Veteran and First Rural Free Delivery Carrier in Fairfield—1896—R. F. D. #10*

THE RATES OF TOLL	
Collectable by Law at a whole gate, and half the rate at a half gate.	
Every Coach, stage coach, omnibus, or other four-wheeled passenger carriage drawn by more than one horse.	10
Every stage, sulky, gig, wagon, with the body on springs, and all pleasure carriages drawn by one horse only.	05
Every loaded lumber wagon or cart drawn by one beast.	04
Every empty wagon or cart drawn by one beast.	03
Every loaded lumber wagon drawn by two beasts.	10
Each additional beast.	02
Each empty lumber wagon drawn by two beasts.	05
Each additional beast.	02
Each loaded oxcart.	12
Each empty oxcart.	02
Each sleigh drawn by one horse.	03
Each sleigh drawn by more than one horse.	07
Each loaded ox sled.	10
Each empty ox sled.	02
Horse and rider.	01
Horses, cattle and mules, each.	01
Sheep and swine, each.	00

*Toll Gate Rates*

*Weston Turnpike Company (sign on toll house at intersection of Sport Hill and Jefferson Street).*





*Benjamin Betts Store—Dry Goods and Groceries—1890—stood at the corner of Unquowa Place and Post Road—(now site of the Mercurio Building).*



*Moses G. Betts' Store—1825 (stood at the corner Oldfield Road and Old Post Road). Moses Betts was the father of Benjamin Betts.*



#### WHEN SOUTHPORT WAS A BUSINESS CENTER

The onion growing industry in this section made of Southport an important business section, as the onions were shipped from there, and there were commercial vessels in the harbor at all times during the season. This picture taken in 1889 by K. J. Dantoft, well-known Bridgeport druggist, who formerly conducted a store in Southport, shows Charles Jennings' hardware and hay store at the foot of Main street, and adjoining it the pier and barn in which the onion shipments were received from the farmers and loaded on the vessels. A ship can be seen at the dock, through the rear door of the barn. Those in the picture are, left to right, front row, Pat Flanagan and James Gibney, well known characters of Southport in those days and another well known Southport man; rear row, Fred Jennings, proprietor of the drug store, William Jennings, Thomas Finnerty, and Captain Phillips, skipper of one of the onion boats.

*The Waterfront—Southport. (The horse stands at the water's edge)—1890  
Jennings' Dock.*





*Brazilla Banks' General Store  
and Post Office  
Greenfield Hill  
as it looked in 1885*



*Steamboat—C. H. Nor-  
tham—went aground off  
Old Burial Ground —  
Greens Farms about 1890.*

*Elwood's Store—  
Southport, 1890*





## FAIRFIELD.

The place where Fairfield stands, first became known to the whites, by the pursuit of the Pequot Indians by the troops of Massachusetts and Connecticut in the early Indian wars in which the colonies were involved.

In 1639, the settlement of this place was begun. The infant colony received several secessions from other colonies and soon formed themselves into a township. The original territory was quite large, running back from the sound a distance of ten or more miles.

Fairfield was until recently the shire town of the county, but the neighboring city of Bridgeport is now the county seat. This place was visited by Gov. Tryon during the revolutionary war, who laid it in ashes. The churches, courthouses, stores and dwellings were consumed. In order to restore the former appearance of the place, many of the public buildings were rebuilt upon the same foundations and in the same form and style.

The present town of Fairfield, though on the line of the Railroad and but about four miles from Bridgeport is quiet in the extreme, and has an air of seclusion and repose. It has two very neat churches, some elegant private dwellings, a large summer hotel which is usually closed in winter. Four dwellings escaped the conflagration of 1779, and are still standing, quaint and weather-beaten monuments of the olden time. It is a place of summer resort and has a very fine beach for bathing. The town hall is built upon the site of the old courthouse which was destroyed in

1779. In 1794 it was rebuilt, and was remodeled and adapted to its present uses in 1870. It numbers about six thousand inhabitants, including Southport and Greenfield Hill, a parish in the North-western part of the town.

## BUSINESS DIRECTORY.

## Post Office.

C B Watery P. M. Main

## Gen'l Country Stores.

Betts B. Main  
Robert E. n the Green  
Turney Rufus, Main

## Station Agent.

H A Sturgis, R R Depot

## Hotel.

Fairfield House, Main

## Blacksmith.

Pox William, n R R Depot

## Meat Market.

Jennings N, n R R Depot

## Boot and Shoe Maker.

Bennett Arthur, Main

## Builder (Carpenter.)

Wells —, North of Benson House

## Oysters &amp; Saloon.

Williams Thomas, Main

## Carriage Maker.

Slayback —, n R R Depot

## Physician.

Dennison J T, front Green

## Dress Makers.

Cochrane Mrs, n B O Church

## School.

Fairfield Academy —



## SOUTHPORT.

The village of Southport is in the town of Fairfield, about two miles south-west of the Court House in Fairfield. It has a small but deep harbor, which has been improved by appropriations from the U. S. Government by the erection of a breakwater at its entrance, in 1831. Its shipping has increased to very considerable proportions. Not far from this village is the Pequot Swamp, celebrated as being the place where this once powerful tribe of Indians made their last desperate stand against the forces of Connecticut and Massachusetts. In this conflict their power was broken and most of the tribe killed or taken prisoners.

In 1828, the place had 60 or 70 houses, a Bank, 8 Stores, an Academy, a Post Office and Church. The village lies mostly south of the Rail Road, and has increased somewhat but not very rapidly in its proportions. It now contains 3 Churches, a

104.

### SOUTHPORT.

National and a Savings Bank and supports a weekly Newspaper devoted to literature and home news. It has many wealthy residents some of whom count their wealth by millions.

The aspect of the country near the sound suggests the uses to which it is adapted, that of market gardening, which is carried on to a large extent, and Market Boats are run to New York conveying the products of this and neighboring places.



**M. McCARRICK,**

**HARNESS MAKER,**

And Dealer in

Saddles, Bridles, Whips, Trunks,

**VALISES, CARPET BAGS.**

Shirts and Netting, Hoods, Blankets, Brushes, Rosettes and Trimmings, Belts, &c.,

ROBES, AND ALL ARTICLES USUALLY FOUND IN A FIRST-CLASS HARNESS STORE.

*Water Street,*

*Southport, Conn.*

REPAIRING ATTENDED TO.

### BUSINESS DIRECTORY.

Post Office.

L F Sherwood P M, Water

Station Agent.

A Jennings, R R Depot

### SOUTHPORT.

105

#### Banks.

Southport National Bank, Main  
Southport Savings Bank, Main

#### Blacksmiths.

Baker Thos, n R R Depot  
Chapman, William D, —

#### Boots and Shoes.

Elwood M, Main  
Wood J H, Main

#### Carpenters.

Debbrow & Taylor, Water  
Jelliff & Northrop, Water

#### Drugs, Medicines etc.

Jennings J F, Water

#### Dry goods.

W J Alvord, Main

#### Flour and Feed.

Jelliff Francis, Water

#### Groceries etc.

Banks S, Water  
Fancher J B, Main  
Jennings J & Son, Water  
Meeker W D & Son, Water  
Pipe Samuel, Main  
Sherwood L F, Water

#### Harness Maker.

M McCARRICK, water. See adv

#### Insurance.

Perry Chas C, Savings Bank bldg

#### Lawyer.

Gilman Chas M, Savings Bank Bldg

#### Livery Stables.

Hanshaw A Buckley, n R R Depot

#### Meat Markets.

Buckley William, Main  
Jennings N, Main e Centre

#### Merchant Tailor.

Sherwood B, Main

#### Millinery & Fancy Goods.

Buckley R, Main

#### Newspaper.

Southport Chronicle, Water

#### Oysters & Saloon.

Squires Simon, Water

#### Physician.

Sherwood Justice.

#### Printers (Book & Job).

Chronicle Association, Water

#### Stoves, Ranges & Tinware.

Wakeman S P, Water  
Woodward M Van B, Main

*From Handbook and Business Directory of the New  
York and New Haven Railroad—Southport in 1871*



*The Mary Elizabeth—  
the last of the Market Fleet—  
Southport Harbor*



## JAPANESE PAPER WARE. DE

TRADE



MARK.

ASK YOUR HOUSE-FURNISHING MAN  
—FOR THE—

### JAPANESE PAPER WARE.

The Cheapest and most Durable  
ARTICLES OUT!

**Water Pails, Milk Pails and Pans,  
Wash-Bowls and Basins,  
Spittoons, Trays, &c.**

THESE ARTICLES ARE  
THOROUGHLY WATER-PROOFED,  
AND HANDSOMELY ENAMELED  
**In Various Colors.**

Easily cleaned and require no scouring. Light  
and pleasant to handle, and impart **no taste to**  
**the Water**, as in the case with either wood or  
tin—there is

**NO RUSTING, SHRINKAGE, BREAKING,**

nor falling to pieces if exposed to the weather, and  
are not affected by extremes of heat or cold.

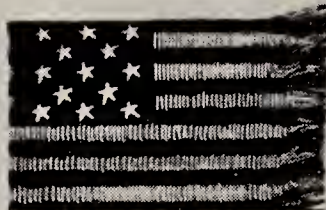
For Sale by House-furnishing and Crockery  
men throughout the country.

**Jennings Brothers,  
Manufacturers,  
432 Pearl Street, New York City.**

## Sasquanaug Association.

Harvest Supper, November 12,

1896.



### M E N U.

Scalloped Oysters

**BOILED.**

Sugar Cured Ham

Smoked Tongue

And Corned Tongue

**ROAST.**

Roast Philadelphia Turkey, Cranberry Sauce.

Roast Spring Chicken, with Spiced Jelly.

Roast Loin of Pork, with Apple Sauce.

**ENTREES.**

Chicken Salad.

Potato Salad.

Baked Beans, New England Style.

**RELISHES.**

Celery.

Pickled Beets.

Chow-Chow.

Gherkins.

Tomato Catsup.

Worcestershire Sauce.

**PASTRY.**

Indian Pudding.

Lemon Pie.

Apple Pie.

Mince Pie.

Pumpkin Pie.

Cheese.

TEA

FRUIT.

Coffee.

**EXTRAS.**

Ice Cream 15 Cents.

Cake 5 Cents.

*The Southport Chronicle, April 6, 1870*

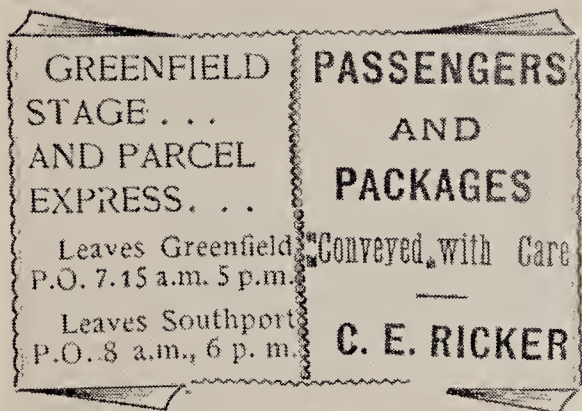
*This Japanese Paper Ware was made  
at the Jennings' Mill located at the cor-  
ner of Round Hill Road and Paper Mill  
Lane.*

*Sasquanaug Association Harvest Supper*





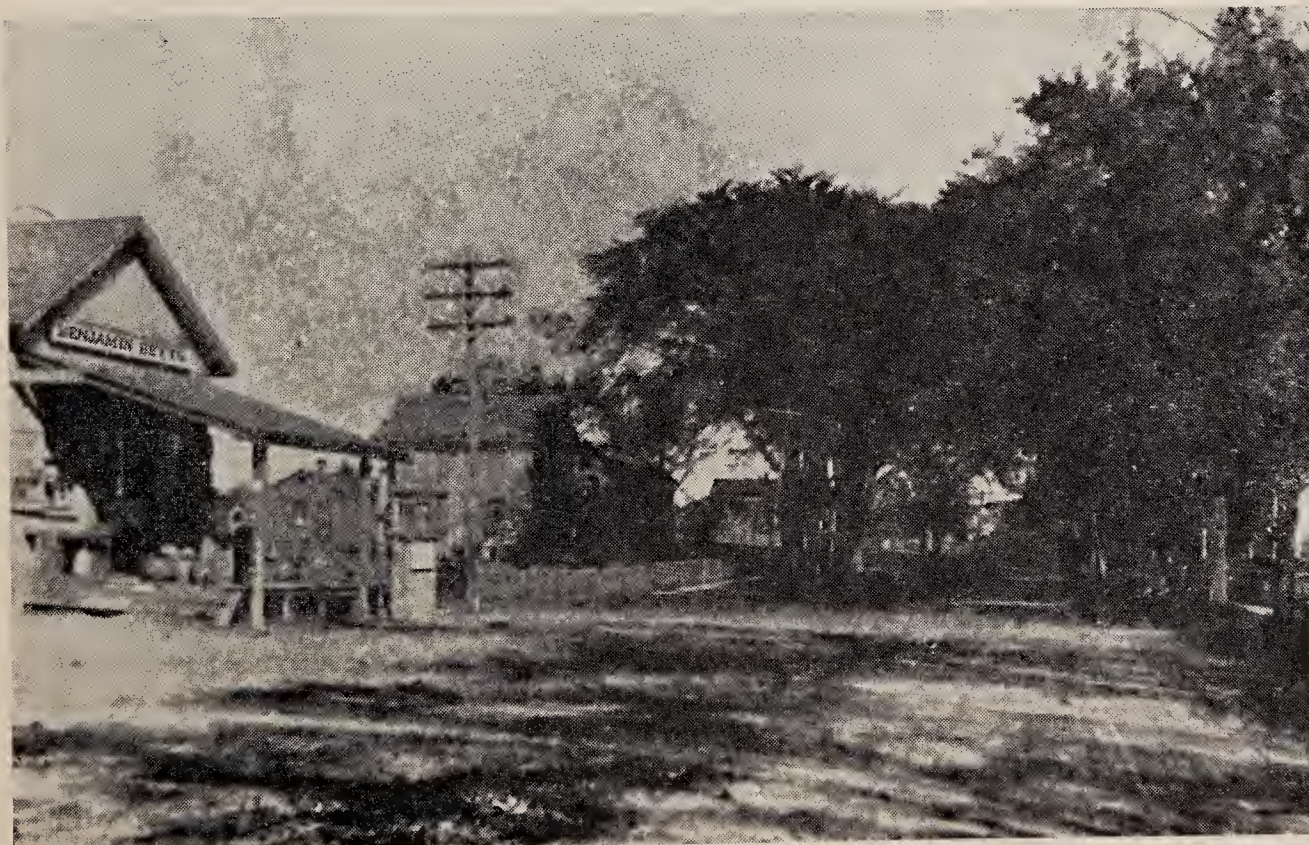
*Fairfield's Business Section 1909*  
*Boyle's Drug Store at right—The Connecticut National Bank now stands on this site*



*The "Cowbell Express"*  
*Southport to Greenfield and return*  
*Passengers 20¢ each on Wednesdays and Saturdays*

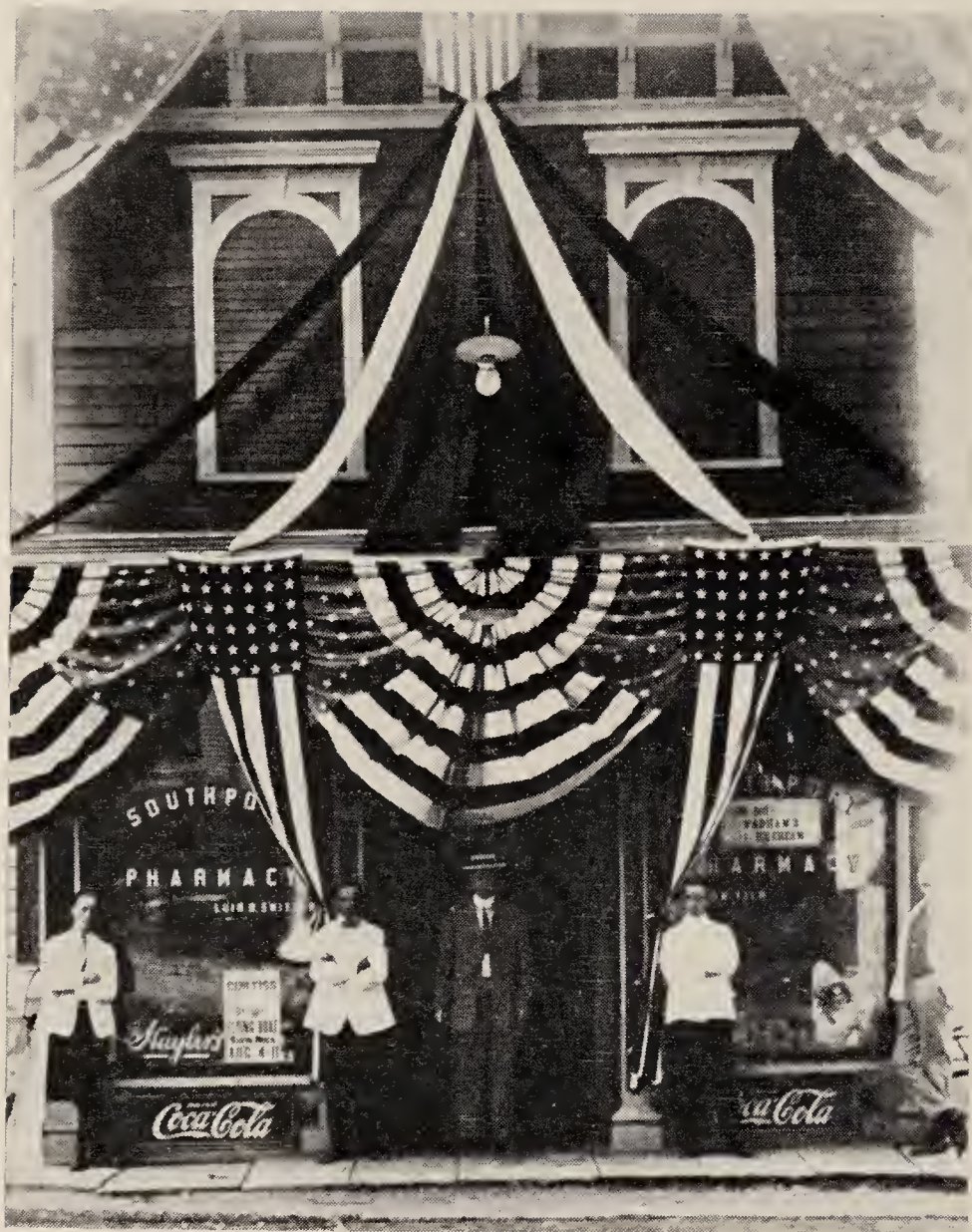


*Harbor Road—Southport (looking west)—1890*



*The Boston Post Road about 1885 — looking east from present site of Fairfield Memorial Library.*





*"A special day — A special dress"*  
Switzer's Drug Store on the waterfront—Southport Harbor. L. to R.—Jesse Wakeman, Ray Jones, T. E. Larson, Newton Hawkins and Luin B. Switzer. This store dates back to 1860.



*DeLoss Dixon as the Yankee Pedlar—*  
*Connecticut Tercentenary Parade—1935*



*"Trouble with the Plumbing"*  
*Southport's Sidewalk Superintendents of 1885*





*Southport Harbor—  
Onion Warehouses  
at right*



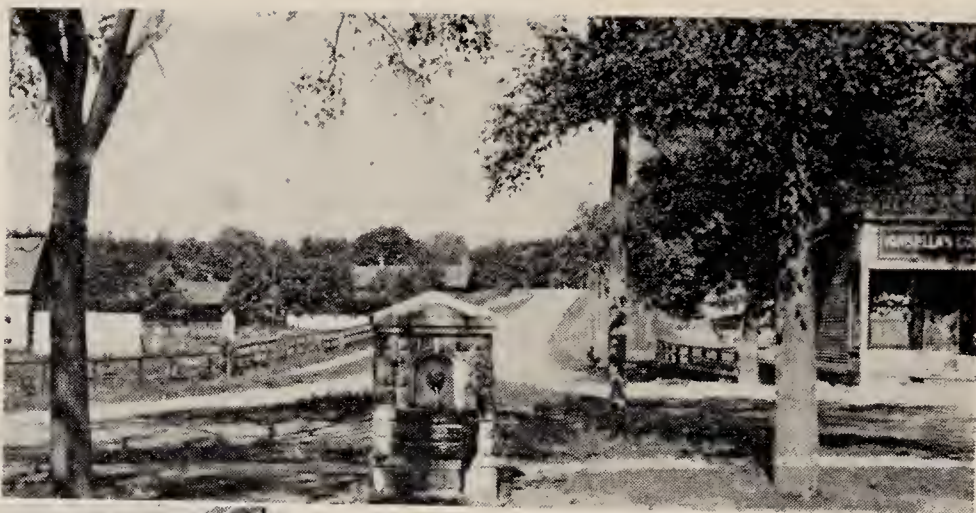
*H. B. Sherwood's  
Ice Wagon  
Southport*



*Southport about 1885*



*Memorial Fountain—Fairfield Center—  
Unquowa Road runs up the hill at the  
rear of the fountain. (Connecticut National  
Bank currently stands at the right.)*



**DOMENIC MERCURIO'S FIRST STORE**

In the early years of the century, Domenic leased this building, which until that time had been Bracken's saloon, and established his first store, after serving his customers from a wagon for a number of years. The building was on the Old Post road, next to the present home of Mrs. William H. Donaldson.

*(Taken from Fairfield News—August 9, 1930)*

*Sign—Fairfield  
Rubber Co.*



*First Fairfield Rubber Co. Plant (now E. I. duPont Nemours and Co.)*



The Southport Chronicle, Wednesday, April 6, 1870

### BEWARE OF EXPLOSIONS,

Six Lamps exploded in this village during the past week, from using impure Kerosene Oil.

It often happens that dealers purchase good oil and mix it with benzine and other dangerous fluids. To guard against imposition of this kind

EVERY ONE SHOULD USE

ASTRAL OIL

OR

PURE KEROSENE.

Warranted not to explode; will burn in the ordinary Kerosene Lamp. It is a perfectly pure oil, no mixture or chemicals; and a given quantity will burn longer and will give more and better light than any other illuminating oil in market. Burning point, 145 degrees Fahrenheit.

This Oil is put up in five gallon Guaranty Patent Cans which are sealed.

For Sale by the Company's Agent

J. Fred'k. Jennings,

DRUGGIST

Water Street

SOUTHPORT, CONN.

Also on hand, a large Stock of Paints, Oils and Varnishes at reduced rates.

The Southport Chronicle, Wednesday, Dec. 28, 1870

NEW FALL GOODS

THE PLACE TO BUY

BOOTS, SHOES, HATS, CAPS, &c.

CHEAP,

is at

J. H. WOOD'S

18 Main Street

→ Call and be Convinced. ←

H A R D W A R E !

PAINTS AND OILS

Having taken the old stand formerly occupied by the late T. S. BRADLEY, I am now prepared to see any of my friends and former customers who may favor me with a call, feeling assured that I can give good satisfaction. I have replenished the stock of

BUILDERS' & GENERAL HARDWARE

AGRICULTURAL TOOLS

PAINTS, OILS AND VARNISH

GLASS AND PUTTY

CROCKERY AND GLASS WARE

POCKET & TABLE CUTLERY

PAINT BRUSHES, &c.

And have also added a complete assortment

G R O C E R I E S !

Which for quality and price will compare favorably with any Store in the village.

L. F. SHERWOOD,

WATER STREET, SOUTHPORT

T. B. WILLIAMS,  
MANUFACTURER OF THE CELEBRATED  
"EPICUREAN SAUCE"

Wholesale and Retail

— Also For Sale —

OYSTERS, ALES, CIGARS & C., &c.

5 East Main Street

CARRIAGE REPAIRING

— AT —

SOUTHPORT, CONN.

The Shop formerly occupied by B. Brown  
has been reopened by

FRANCIS BULKLEY

Repairing neatly done with dispatch, and on  
reasonable terms.

Southport, May 15, 1869

The Southport Chronicle, Wednesday, Dec. 28, 1870

LOOK! LOOK!! LOOK!!!

CHRISTMAS GOODS

AT

JENNINGS' DRUG STORE

Wooden Toys, Paper Toys, Tin Toys, Iron Toys,  
Glass Toys, China Toys, of every descrip-  
tion. Games of all kinds. Building  
and Alphabet Blocks.

Toilet Sets — new designs — Choice French and  
German Perfumes, Fancy Toilet Soaps, Brushes,  
Combs, Leather and Calf Wallets, Pipes  
and Smokers' Articles, Story Books  
for old and young.

200 kinds English and American Confectionery.

Call early and make your selections.

SOUTHPORT MILLS

I have purchased the entire Mill Property of Mr.  
E. B. Nichols, and intend to continue the Flouring  
and Feed Business, and can assure the public that  
it will be our aim to keep constantly for sale a well  
selected assortment of

FLOUR, FEED AND GRAIN

Flour of our own make. Bolted Meal, Oat Meal,  
Wheat and Grits, Graham &c., &c. Every article  
sold warranted to be the best of its kind, and all at  
the lowest cash prices. All goods ordered delivered  
free of charge.

The subscriber returns his thanks to his friends  
and all who have patronized him in his previous  
business connections, and hopes for the continu-  
ance of the same.

Our Motto is — Try to Please.

FRANCIS JELLIFF,

No. 10 Water Street.

Southport, August 31, 1870.



For Sale

The Peerless Seed Potatoes

Apply to

E. S. SHERMAN

Fairfield, Conn.

Fairfield, April 17, 1872

Plants, Bulbs, Seeds, etc.

At low prices

E. B. JENNINGS

Spt. Apr. 17, 1872

Spt. Conn.

SKIFF AND ALVORD

Are Agents for the celebrated

WEED

Family Favorite Sewing Machine

Which Eclipses them all

Southport, Conn.

SKIFF AND ALVORD

Dealer in

French and Domestic Dry Goods,

Hats, Caps, and

Ready Made Clothing

P.S. Clothing made to order, and cut in latest fashion

Agents for the celebrated

Weed Family Favorite Sewing Machine

(Allen Nichols owned Skiff and Alvord previously)

A New Harness Shop

GEORGE H. BRIGHT

Has opened a Harness Shop in the office of Messrs Henshaw and Bulkley where he will be prepared to receive orders for Single or Double Harness.

Repairing done at Short Notice

Southport, Conn., April 12, 1872

DISBROW AND TAYLOR

Carpenters and Builders

First door east of Post Office

Southport, Conn.

All orders in our line promptly attended to

Lumber furnished at reasonable prices

Also—Lime, Cement, Plaster, etc.

W. A. Disbrow

W. B. Taylor

J. GREGORY

Cor. Center St. and the Turnpike

Southport, Conn.

is now prepared to supply the public with

all kinds of first class Groceries

including a supply of St. Louis and Other Flour

Feed of All Kinds

English Breakfast, Japan and Other Teas

Sugars, New Orleans and Porto Rico Molasses, etc.

In addition to his groceries, he has a good stock of Boots and Shoes, both Ladies and Gents, and an assortment of Notions and Table and Pocket Cutlery, etc.

All orders thankfully received and promptly executed

Southport, June 14, 1871

## SOUTHPORT MILLS

FLOUR

FEED

GRAIN

Francis Jelliff

BENJAMIN SHERWOOD

Tailor

6 East Main Street

(over Skiff and Alvord's Store)

Southport, Conn.

J. FREDERICK JENNINGS

Druggist and Apothecary

21 Water Street

Southport, Conn.

CHAS. C. PERRY

Fire, Life and Accident

Insurance Agency

Office in Southport Savings Bank

Southport, Conn.

BENJ. B. BECKTELL

Shaving, Hair Cutting and Dyeing Saloon

Southport, Conn.

(Rooms over Skiff and Alvord)

M. ELWOOD

Boots and Shoes

Ready Made and Made to Order

12 East Main Street

Southport, Conn.

You Can Save Money

by

Purchasing your Groceries

at

W. B. MEEKER & SON'S

Water Street

Teas of the Choicest Selections including Imperial Hyson, Oolong, Japanese etc. Coffee of All Grades. Pure and original Spices, Sugars and Dried Fruits. Flour by the bag or barrel at prices that will defy competition. Sporting and Blasting Powder, Fuse and Shot. A large assortment of Agricultural Instruments. Poudrette, Guano, Phosphate Lime etc. Bone Dust in quantities to suit.

(1869 Southport Chronicle)

W. B. Meeker & Son's

Line of Packets

To New York

Sloop HENRY J. SCUDDER

Capt. J. Gorham

Leaves SOUTHPORT every TUESDAY night. Returning leaves NEW YORK, Pike Slip, foot of Pike Street every SATURDAY night.

Freight of every description taken at lowest rates. Good accommodations for storing freight at docks.



**BLACKSMITHING  
and  
HORSE SHOEING**

The subscriber takes pleasure in informing the public that he is now prepared to do all kinds of Blacksmithing and Ship Work as well as Shoeing, in the very best manner. He feels sure he can give entire satisfaction to all who may favor him with their patronage.

W. G. CHAPMAN

Southport, April 19, 1871

**FURNACES, STOVES  
and RANGES**

New Store! New Goods!

Golden Eagle Heater in brick or portable. The American Portable Heater. Gas Burner Ranges. Magee's Standard and Advance COOKSTOVES Also Pumps, Zincs, Lead Pipe, Copper etc., etc. Plumbing, Roofing, and all kinds of Jobbing promptly and skillfully done. Everything new and warranted to give perfect satisfaction.

NO OLD STOCK

S. B. Wakeman

7 Water Street (H. Sturges old store)  
Southport, Conn.

Southport, Conn., May 4, 1870

**Mason and Hamlin  
CABINET ORGANS**

Important Improvements  
Patented June 21 and August 23, 1870  
Reduction of Prices  
Apply to E. C. Sherwood  
Southport, Conn.

G. H. BRADLEY  
Greenfield Hill

Has on hand a good stock of first class  
Groceries

Choice Teas

Wines

Liquors

and Cigars

Which he is selling at as low a price as can be  
found in the State

N.B.—No Trouble to SHOW GOODS

Miss R. Bulkley

Dealer in

MILLINERY

and

FANCY GOODS

Miss R. Bulkley would inform her friends and the public that she has just received her fall and winter stock of goods and is now selling at reduced prices at the old stand, one door north of Southport Savings Bank.

Millinery in all its branches executed with neatness and dispatch and at low prices.

Southport, Nov. 15, 1868

**Builder's Hardware — Agricultural Hardware  
House Furnishings — Hardware  
Locks of all kinds**

KNOBS in great variety, CARPENTER TOOLS, CUTLERY, an extensive assortment, if you want a first rate Razor, Pocket Knife or Butcher Knife, this is the place to look for it.

RAZORS of Rogers', Wade & Butcher's American and Worthfield Knife Company's Manufacture. KNIVES of the best English and American makers.

RAZOR STROPS and SHAVING BRUSHES

KEROSENE LAMPS and FIXTURES

A fine assortment of PAINTS, OILS, VARNISHES, BENZINE, DRYERS, etc.

Jewett and Son's

PERFECTLY PURE WHITE LEAD

A large stock of HORSE WHIPS and LASHES

Also a good line of STATIONERY

REMEMBER that the PLACE to get any  
of the ABOVE ARTICLES

is at

T. S. BRADLEYS

Water Street, Southport

N.B.—Housekeepers will find a good article of Plain Crockery at the above stand.

**L U M B E R L U M B E R**

Jelliff and Northrop

Builders and Contractors

Southport

Have constantly on hand a good assortment of Pine, Hemlock and Spruce Lumber, Shingles, Cedar and Chestnut Posts, Lath, Lime, Cement, Plaster, Brick, Hair, Nails, and Builders' General Hardware, Doors, Sash, Glass, etc., etc.

Please Give Us a Call

N.B.—Experienced workmen always employed.

Also a few news items help us see how busy our town had become 90 years ago.

Southport Chronicle

We understand that there will soon be a bakery in Southport.

\* \* \*

Mr. T. M. Mitchell has commenced making his root beer. Families supplied at their residences. Mr. Mitchell's beer is made from roots gathered by himself, and is warranted to be pure root beer. Mr. M. will also soon commence the manufacture of Ice Cream.

\* \* \*

Mr. William Bulkley has removed his place of business to No. 9 East Main Street, one door below the Southport Savings Bank, where he will be ready to receive his old customers as before, and as many new ones as may see fit to call on him.



Mr. N. Jennings has some fine sleighs for sale at prices varying from \$45 to \$125. Give him a call. You cannot fail to be suited. There is to be plenty of snow this winter. Secure a cutter at once.

\* \* \*

The new Factory will soon be in running order. Some of the machinery and the boiler for the engines have arrived.

\* \* \*

The Mott Manufacturing Company are laying out and beautifying the grounds about their factory in Fairfield. They are to have elegantly graded roads on which to drive away the carriages they make.

\* \* \*

A Connecticut Company is putting up a factory for the building of carriages made entirely of India-rubber, excepting the axles and tires. A decided superiority is claimed for the material over wood. Ed. Note:—This undoubtedly refers to the Mott Manufacturing Company or in a more familiar way the new factory, at Fairfield.

\* \* \*

Notice—Salt will Be Ground at My Mill in Hulls Farms on Tuesday and Wednesday May 21 & 22, 1872.

Joel Banks.

\* \* \*

From The Fairfield Advertiser—1884.

Southport has quite a fine "fleet of sail" when seen collectively. The handsome yacht "Isabel" is being thoroughly overhauled by her owner, Capt. C. A. Meeker. She is about 38 feet long and 10 tons burthen. Capt. George Bulkley has his trim yacht "Nereid" also hauled out for repairs. She is 38 feet long and 8 tons burthen. Capt. W. B. Meeker's fine yacht "Ada" about 6 tons will reappear soon. Capt. M. Buckley's "Annie" 20 feet long is being put into first class shape. Beside the yachts we have the cat rigged boats, "Maud" belonging to R. L. Shepard; "Water Lilly", Lewis Curtis and Andrew Walker's the sharpies of Thomas Moore, 20 feet long; Horace Sickmund's 14 foot, two belonging to Buckley and Allen; a two master belonging to Will Jennings, T. Mitchell's 20 foot oyster boat and C. S. Guyner's 30 foot; the Buckley Bros. have a fine small sail boat. The large boats are the schooners "Henry A. Remsen", "Mary Elizabeth", "White Rock", "George Edwin", "Helen Mar", "Emily C. Denison" and "S. A. Faulkner". (Emily C. Denison sank at Charleston, Mass., raised and towed to flats—badly injured). Thus it will be seen that Southport has quite a navy, which if placed in line would make an imposing appearance.

\* \* \*

May 29, 1884

The Marcelin Chemical Works have sold the ruins of the factory at Black Rock and their 7 acres of land to Irwin Strickland of Bridgeport for about \$3,000.

\* \* \*

Ice Cream Saloon—Messrs. Bulkley & Allen have fitted up a very nice Ladies and Gentlemen's Ice Cream Saloon at their store on the dock, Main Street below the Post Office. Besides excellent cream which they sell by the plate, pint, quart or gallon, they keep the soda waters, root beer, etc.

Hotel Merwin—Fairfield, brilliantly lighted by gas—Grand Hops popular here.

\* \* \*

Allen Hotel—200 guests—people of wealth and refinement—bal-masque given for children.

\* \* \*

Free Railroad ticket from Bridgeport. Messrs. W. B. Hall & Co. of Bridgeport will during their great sale of silk and July sale of Summer goods give free return tickets to all who purchase to the amount of \$10.

\* \* \*

There will be a display of Japanese Fireworks about noon at the Pickett Store, tomorrow—4th of July.

\* \* \*

Messrs. Fletcher & McEwan are rapidly completing their improvements to the Wakeman Mills, at Sasco Lake. They are already manufacturing straw-board and employ 6 or 8 men. Success to the enterprise.

\* \* \*

If you want a good clean shave neatly performed, A. C. Muser is your man. He also keeps in stock all of the desirable weekly newspapers.

\* \* \*

August 13, 1884

Mr. Robert Dickie has been on the Plain (Mill) with his thrashing machine during this week. He thrashed 50 bushels on Tuesday forenoon for E. Burr and had to come 2 miles with his machine, and spend an hour in setting it up besides.

\* \* \*

Mr. B. F. Bulkley is now rushing business at his cider mill. He makes 4 gallons of cider from a bushel of apples with his new power press.

\* \* \*

1886

Turkeys are abundant in this vicinity and unusually well feathered for this time of year. We noticed, the other day, a remarkably fine flock at the residence of the First Selectman.

\* \* \*

The Fairfield Rubber Works is now compelled to work some departments until 9 p.m. for a while in order to catch up with orders.

### *Onion Farming*

I feel that the onion farming of the 19th century should be discussed in detail here for the Southport Globe onion is still sold today by seedsmen all over the country. This area was probably the onion center of the East. The farmers worked hard and long and hoped for a good price in New York at the close of their yearly efforts. Three schooners went weekly to New York. The young boys of the families were kept from the Spring and early Fall terms of school as they had to help out in the onion fields. The ground had to be carefully prepared with all of the little stones raked off, the soil gently leveled and smoothed. The seeds were then planted by



a seed sower which dropped 14-18 seeds per foot of the row. The rows were twelve inches apart. These were planted just as soon as the frost was out in hopes that a slightly earlier harvest might be realized. The little white pickle onions were the choicest and brought the best price. The boys and men would weed onions day after day for a dollar a day and their dinner at noon. Farmers from Greens Farms and Greenfield Hill sent their produce to New York via the market boats and the trains. Two large freight cars loaded to capacity of 125 barrels left Southport every day. The farmers preferred the boats however for the transportation cost was less and they could be sure that they would not be frozen enroute. The Captain of the sloop sold the onions in New York, charged the farmer 22¢ commission on every barrel (2¾ bushels made a barrel) as his fee and returned the remainder of the selling price to the grower. Prices varied with the demand. \$10.00 per barrel was the highest price I could find and 15¢ per barrel the lowest. The saying was that when seeds were expensive, onions would bring a good price. The average price per barrel would be about \$1 to \$3. The story goes that it was nothing to see the wagons (horse drawn) and oxen drawn carts loaded with barrels of onions lined up from Southport Harbor along Main Street and Pequot Road to the Bronson Road Railroad Bridge on shipping day. The boats went once each week. A four horse wagon would carry 12 barrels and many a year a single farmer would have from 100-500 barrels. These were loaded on board, covered with canvas, then piled with a layer of salt hay and another covering of canvas on top—all of this to prevent freezing. The Henry Remson, captained by Felix Heney of the Banks line carried 2,000 barrels and the Falkner captained by "Brad" Wilson of the Meeker line, carried the same amount. The Mary Elizabeth of the Jennings line had a hold with a capacity of 1500—2000 barrels. Shipping would begin in September and continue throughout the winter until the last one was sold. My Dad often said that it would take all summer to raise them and all winter to get rid of them.

(Southport Chronicle, Wednesday, Dec. 28, 1870)

#### MARKETS

The sloop Mary Elizabeth, J. Jennings & Son, leaves for New York every Saturday night.

The sloop Henry J. Scudder, W. B. Meeker & Sons' Line, leaves for New York every Tuesday night.—See advertisement.

#### LATEST MARKET PRICES OF PRODUCE

White Onions .....	\$6.00 per B'l.
Yellow Onions .....	3.50 per B'l.
Red Onions .....	3.50 per B'l.
Potatoes .....	3.50 per B'l.
Turnips .....	—
Apples .....	—
Hay .....	1.00 per cwt.
Straw .....	1.15 per cwt.
Eggs .....	.50 per doz.
Butter .....	.50 per lb.
Corn .....	1.05 per bush.
Fowls .....	1.40 per pair

The invention of the Meeker Smoothing Harrow was a real innovation in the life of an onion farmer for with this piece of equipment the preparation of the soil for planting was made much easier and all the farmers bought one.

Onions had been raised as early as 1760 according to the records.

#### SOME ONION NEWS ITEMS

March 11, 1886—Fairfield Advertiser

900 barrels of onions were shipped from the depot last week.

March 29, 1871—Southport Chronicle

Onions are lower. Faces are longer. Never mind! Next year don't hold on for such immense prices.

In 1860 the average sized farm in Connecticut contained 99 acres; in 1870 93 acres, and in 1880, 80 acres.

We have read of the early efforts of the Townsfolk to have a "Smith live among them" and one fully realizes how very important this tradesman must have been. Until the event of the automobile some forty years ago, blacksmith shops were numerous in all parts of Town. John Jennings had one of the very early ones, as had Caleb Brewster of Revolutionary War reknown. These men established their own trade—not by invitation but by their own initiative.

As the 19th century became the 20th, there was Jim Trainor's in Southport and George Lewis across from the Deerfield School, McGarry's in Fairfield Center, Mike Sharkey's on Redding Road just north of where Catamount joins it, Ben Burr's at the corner of North Street and Black Rock Turnpike, Charles Wakeman's on Banks North Road. Thomas Beecher's at Platts-ville—noted for oxen and horse shoeing. Frank E. Lane had established his shop in Southport in 1886. A picture of his shop is carried in the picture section.

Daniel Squire, a stout strong blacksmith had kept a shop on Bronson Road and had sold Dr. Dwight his land back in 1783. Stephen Hull had also had a shop as had Darius Grant.



Hull Sherwood told in December 1814, "We get our oxen shod at Jabez Squires for a dollar" and on January 18, 1813, "Father got the mare shod at George Sherwood's".—thus two additional tradesmen. The Blacksmith at the foot of Sport Hill would not only shoe horses but fixed wagons too. Lacey's Shop was especially noted for this type of work. There was still another shop at the corner of Hill Farm Road and Duck Farm Road and Morris Wilson had one just off the Black Rock Turnpike on Hemlock Road where only oxen could be shod. The oxen were put in a sling-like frame, tied head and feet and then hoisted up to have their shoes put on. Further south on Black Rock Turnpike was Charles France's little blacksmith shop set close to the road. This still stands today on the property of Mr. and Mrs. Richard H. MacDonald. This property was originally called Steep Rocks in 1814 but was later known as Samp Mortar Farms and was owned by Alden Gould, the Brickmaker. Then there was Foster's blacksmith shop up in Aspetuck. He was also a wagon maker.

William Fallon came to Greenfield from Southport and opened his shop at the corner of Hill Farm Road and Hillside Road. As he left Southport everyone proclaimed that he would go hungry up there in the country and would have "to eat snow balls and cedar tops" to keep from starving. He was such a good shoer I've been told though that it wasn't long before he sent word back to his doubting friends "to come on up—for the snow balls and cedar tops were fine". The story goes that Mr. Fallon was so accommodating that it was a common sight to see 10 or 12 horses along Hillside Road waiting their turn to be shod. The shop was a sort of shed-like structure with a combination stone and brick furnace. He later moved to the corner of Verna Hill and Greenfield Hill Road where the former Greenfield Hill Fire House stood.

Mr. William McGarry's shop is one remembered by all of us who have lived in Fairfield very long. This shop had been started by Mr. McGarry's father John and his grandfather Michael Fox on the land adjacent to the front yard of Sherman School—the northeast corner of the front schoolyard just south of the large buttonball tree about 1840. In 1871 it was moved across the street to its final location because Sherman School was to be built. To many when it closed in 1941, it was sort of the end of old time Fairfield, for modern stores sprung up on all sides and across the street but the pungent smell

of the burning hoof was a nostalgic reminder of Fairfield as it had been and we hated to see it go. There is a picture of it included here.

There were undoubtedly many, many others which I have failed to find or hear about, but certainly we realize there was a goodly number of blacksmith shops.

In looking over some old accounts, I found these of Mike Sharkey's. They show amounts paid to Mr. Sharkey in 1881-1882 by Mr. Frank Sherwood.

1 shoe on Charley .....	\$ .31
Shoeing Billy .....	1.25
2 shoes on Charley .....	.63
Sharpening shoes on Charley .....	.75
2 shoes on Billy .....	.62
Repairing chain .....	.25
Shoeing two horses .....	2.00
3 new shoes .....	.94
Setting shoes on 3 horses .....	2.00
2 shoes on Bill .....	.62
2 shoes on Fan .....	.62
2 shoes on colt .....	.62
3 shoes on Doll .....	.93
Shoeing 2 horses .....	2.30

There were some other single factories, shops and businesses which should be mentioned. Gershon Hubbell who lived on Hillside Road was a leather boot and breeches maker and his daughter Priscilla was said to be the best glove maker for miles around in 1795. Hull Sherwood bought a pair of gloves from her in 1816 for 9 shillings.

The current Greenfield Hill Congregational Church parsonage was a gun factory during the Civil War. This was run by Isaac Milbank. In this so called armory he manufactured the Milbank rifle and it is said that one can still obtain shells for this rifle.

There was still another gun factory over in the Wilson's Mills area and several kinds of guns were manufactured there. One in particular was a sort of a boot shaped pistol and another a percussion lock, smooth bore. Sam Wilson was the manufacturer. He made the first rifle in Fairfield County. In all, he made more than one hundred guns and repaired many others. He did a great deal of iron work including 12 sets of saw mill works excluding the crank. His shot guns sold for \$5.00-\$10.00 each and his rifles for \$30.00 each. It took him a week to make a gun. He couldn't keep up with the orders from all about and they came from as far away as Ireland. He bore the barrels out of solid iron. The story goes that he ordered hundreds of crow bars in New York. These crow bars were drilled and used for bar-



rels of guns. He also bought iron by the bar from Miah Perry.

His father-in-law Eliphalet Lyon lived on Burr's Street just above where Old Academy Road joins it and he wove the first carpet on Greenfield Hill. Dr. Dwight brought him a piece which he had purchased in New York asking him if he thought he could weave one like it. Mr. Lyon told him to go home and cut up his old clothes, sew them end to end and he believed he could make a similar one. Dr. Dwight did as he was bid and returned a while later with the requested necessities. Mr. Lyon had unraveled his sample, knew the pattern and proceeded to make the carpet.

Just off the Black Rock Turnpike, north of the Merritt Parkway, gun barrels were made. They bore them out right there too.

There was a distillery up at the Still Pond off Catamount Road where they made cider brandy in 1870. That was called the Beaverdam Distillery and there was another run by Mr. Beach over in the eastern part of town.

There was also a carpet factory on North Street run by Isaac Smith. This "factory" wove yards and yards of rag carpeting. Folks would take their rags cut in strips and sewed together and on his big loom, Mr. Smith would weave carpets for them. A picture of the carpet factory is included in the picture section. Mrs. Polly Banks, my great grandmother who lived on Redding Road also wove carpets for neighbors and friends who needed new floor coverings.

I found some early weaving prices:

Capt. John Not debtor	£ s d
—for weaving twenty-three yards of woolen cloath at 5 shillings per yard	5/10/0
—for weaving three yards of linen cloath at eighteen shillings per yard	2/19/0

January ye 4, 1749.

Rag carpets were undoubtedly much less expensive especially when one furnished his own rags.

H. Noah Osborn made combs. There was also a comb factory on Sturges Highway just north of Hulls Farms Road and still another over on the Saugatuck. It was just a little shed-like building along the side of the road that used the river for power. I saw an advertisement in an early newspaper which read "cash paid for ox horns at the comb manufactory". There was also a plaster mill close by the comb factory on a sluice way which cuts in from the River. Frank Sherwood mentioned going to the plaster mill and getting 300 lbs. of plaster.

The Bradley Axe factory also on the Saugatuck and described for me by Mr. and Mrs. John Fanton came to its location on that river in 1872 from a spot on Hulls Highway just below where Mrs. Sarah W. Wood now resides. That first axe and edge tool factory of David Wakeman in the Hulls Farms district was like a blacksmith shop really. Wakeman Bradley, having learned his trade in Fairfield, went to the Lyons Plains Road spot and established the Bradley Axe and Edge Tool Factory. There they made axes, broad adzes, hatchets, turpentine tools, ship carpenter tools, ship mauls, caulking irons, socket chisels, drawing knives, rabbit knives, box scrapers, pruning shears, garden trowels, machettes, etc., etc. It is said that the trip hammers could be heard all the way to Fairfield and Southport on a frosty morning. \$1.00 a day and board was the pay for the superintendant and when he kept the books he received 15¢ an hour extra. Mr. Fanton further told me that they did "a powerful business on agricultural tools and with the South for hoes but the Civil War shot the hoe business all to pieces". The grinding was hard on the men and "they used to wear wet sponges over their mouths and noses but it eventually got into their lungs and they dropped with consumption". There were open fires throughout the factory and a wind box all through the shop. The factory was completely burned in 1911.

Another enterprise: The Saint Mark, a hotel which once stood where the Fairfield Chapter of the American Red Cross now stands on the Old Post Road was a thriving establishment in 1880 and boasted "Large airy rooms, parlors and verandas, electric bells, Gas, Post and Telephone Office. Beautifully situated amid scenes that charm the eye, its excellent drives, attractive walks, freedom from all restraints, combine with its healthful and invigorating atmosphere to render it one of the most homelike of all Summer Resorts. Hops, Concerts, Tableaux, Theatricals will be arranged for and for recreative purposes, every requirement provided. Transient rates \$2.50 per day", in its advertisements. It was open all year. See the fine picture in the picture section.

McCarrick's Harness Shop at the corner of Fairfield Woods Road and Black Rock Turnpike was known for miles around for his fine harnesses. McCarrick also had a harness shop in Southport in 1870.

Hamilton and DeLoss was a company which was planned in December 1916 on the site where



the McKesson's Office building now stands, for the purpose of supplying partly formed hollowware and flatware for the jewelry and silverware business. The thought being that if partly shaped spoons and teapots could be made here, it would greatly expedite the work of the silversmith as it would only be necessary for him to embellish the piece with his own designing.

By the early spring of 1917 this plant was ready to meet the demand for the stampings from the silversmiths but then the United States entered World War I and of course nearly all of the American manufacturers were busy making war goods. Hamilton and DeLoss too received several Government contracts. They made brass eye pieces for gas masks and cases for food for the Army. Some nickel and silver parts were made as well—all as parts of implements of War. As World War I came to an end in November 1918, no hollowware pieces had as yet been made and it was decided to sell the Company to the Hawthorne Company of Bridgeport, which in turn made stampings for automobile trays, flashlights, etc.

#### *Kennel Food Supply Company*

The Kennel Food Supply Company, manufacturers of high grade dog foods had been in Fairfield a long time and just this past Fall moved to Lorain, Ohio.

The story of the Kennel Food Supply Company goes back to the late 1890's when Simon C. Bradley, who bred and trained hunting dogs, gained a wide reputation by his success in field trials and exhibitions throughout the country. After many experiments, Mr. Bradley developed a balanced food for his dogs and started baking the mixture in one form of biscuits in an oven in the kitchen of his home. On his trips to various field trials he took the baked food with him and occasionally gave some of the biscuits to other trainers and kennel owners. The food proved so tempting that soon trainers and owners were asking him to prepare it for them and almost before he knew it, he was in the dogfood business.

For some time he continued to bake at home but the demand grew so fast that he built a plant on the site of the most recent business on Mill River just below the Sturgis Road bridge. Here he installed one oven. The business grew and the plant was expanded. It was said in 1908 that 5 or 6 tons of dog food were shipped each day. All went well until August 1917 when the plant was destroyed by fire after being struck by lightning.

Undaunted, Mr. Bradley immediately started to erect a new plant and in November of the same year the business was resumed. Mr. Bradley conducted the business until his death in 1936.

The original formula of Mr. Bradley's was improved from time to time as newly discovered and tested nutrients were added but even today it remains the basis of the biscuits and other dog foods manufactured by Kennel Food Supply Company.

More than forty ingredients go into the mixers which blend them into a dough resembling grandmother's old fashioned molasses cookies. From the mixers the dough would go to a rolling machine and then through a machine which kibbles it into designated sizes and thence to the ovens.

The Company was one of the first to put a canned dog food on the market. A number of other special diet foods for dogs and other animals were produced at the Fairfield plant. One of the products—Chim Crackers, which contain raisins among other ingredients, are made especially for feeding monkeys. They are sold to Universities throughout the country. Other products would include Rabbit Pellets, special food for rats and mice, wild bird food which contains especially prepared biscuits in addition to a mixture of seeds. In 1946, Kennel Food Supply Company became a division of Hygrade Food Products of Detroit.

The gentleman who once said that nutritionally dogs eat better than their masters spoke a real truth here. Salesmen for the company often eat a bite of one of the biscuits as they are explaining the merits of their products.

As this company moved its operation to Ohio in the Fall of 1959, another bit of old Fairfield was chipped away.

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Ernest and Floyd Burr had a carriage and wagon repair shop on North Street with an up and down saw being remembered by some; and Charlie and Joe Klobberdanz had a Tinning and Plumbing Shop on Black Rock Turnpike at the Merrit Parkway exit. Michael Lacey had a wagon shop on Mill River at the Sport Hill Road in Plattsville. There—wagons were built, repaired and painted. A picture of this shop is included here.

Walter Perry made oxcarts on the west side of Merwin's Lane just about where Mr. and Mrs. Frank Labbance now reside.

There were other handle factories for axes, shovels, etc.—one at Dave Gould's in Aspetuck.



There were sorgham mills where they first soaked the sugar cane like corn stalks and then squeezed out what sugar there was and made a syrup of it. One of these was on Sturges Highway just north of Hulls Farms Road.

There were slaughter houses where butchering of beef, sheep, hogs and calves was an ongoing process—one of these stood on Jackman Avenue just off Stratfield Road.

Jonathan Bulkley recorded on January 26, 1846, “Mr. Samuel Henshaw sold his place a week or two ago—including his Mill Pond to Bridgeport folks for to set up Manufactures of Saddle Trees”.

There was a flax mill over on Black Rock Turnpike, just across from where Mr. and Mrs. Richard MacDonald reside.

Still another business worthy of note was that of the newspaper, *The Fairfield Gazette*, a weekly established on July 13, 1786 by Stephen Miller and Francis Forgue. Prior to February 15, 1787, the firm took Peter Bulkley into the partnership and the firm’s name became Miller, Forgue and Bulkley and the title of the paper became “*The Fairfield Gazette or the Independent Intelligencer*”. Early in August 1787, the firm was dissolved and Forgue and Bulkley became the firm’s name. The last issue located is that of September 23, 1789. These advertisements appeared in the February 22, 1787 issue:

Fairfield Gazette: Printed by Miller, Forgue and Bulkley — subscriptions for this paper at seven shillings per annum. Essay, Articles of Intelligence etc., etc. are thankfully received and every kind of work in the Printing Line performed with neatness, accuracy and dispatch.

Also:

Two coppers  
Per pound  
Given for clean  
Linnen and Cotten  
Rags  
at the  
Printing Office.

In this same issue appeared the following item:

Fairfield, February 22

On Tuesday last arrived at Black Rock the Brig *Fairfield*, Capt. Smedley from Hispaniola, laden with Rum and Molasses.

On the same day sailed from Black Rock, the sloop *Fairfield*, Whitney master, for Boston and sloop *Dolphin*, Thorp master for *Dolphin*.

There have been other papers over the years. *The Southport Chronicle* which started in November 1867 and continued to 1901 is the next one we know about. Then there was *The Fairfield*

*Advertiser* from 1884 to 1890, *The Fairfield Weekly Record*, April 29, 1897 to April 21, 1899. *The Fairfield News*, July 1, 1922 to 1957 and now the *Town Crier*, which has taken the place of the *News* since 1957.

Another interesting business of the past years was that of the Toll Road and the Toll Gate. These toll roads were roads prepared and maintained privately, and passers-by were charged for the privilege of using the road whether they were alone on foot, or their animals passed over it, or they rode in a cart.

Book number Two for the Weston Turnpike Company dated December 1866 made delightful reading. This Toll Gate was on the Sport Hill Road at the intersection of Jefferson Street. If you were going southerly from Easton to Fairfield you would be charged the so called “Half Gate” rate but if you were coming out of Jefferson Street it was necessary to open the gate all of the way and you would be charged the “Whole Gate” rate. The rates shown on a toll board, —, which hung on the gate house, were:

THE RATES OF TOLL

Collectible by Law at a whole gate and half the sum at a half gate.	
	Cts.
Every Coach, Stage Coach, Barouche, Phaeton or other four wheeled pleasure carriage drawn by more than one horse .....	.10
Every chaise, sulkey, gig, wagon, with body on springs and all pleasure carriages drawn by one horse only .....	.05
Every loaded lumber wagon or cart drawn by one beast .....	.04
Every loaded lumber wagon drawn by two beasts .....	.10
Every empty wagon or cart drawn by one beast .....	.03
Each additional beast .....	.02
Each empty lumber wagon drawn by two beasts .....	.05
Each additional beast .....	.02
Each loaded ox-cart .....	.12
Each empty ox-cart .....	.06
Each sleigh drawn by one horse .....	.05
Each sleigh drawn by more than one horse ....	.07
Each loaded ox-sled .....	.10
Each empty ox-sled .....	.05
Horse and rider .....	.02
Horses, cattle and mules each .....	.01
	mills
Sheep and swine each .....	.02

This was a regular little company with 100 shares having been issued at the outset. Stockholders and officers in 1867 were:

Mallett Seeley, President  
Ezra Seeley, Moderator  
E. S. Seeley, Clerk and Treasurer



Clarissa Silliman  
 Ira Sherman  
 F. E. Silliman  
 Anson Bennett  
 David Silliman  
 David G. Silliman  
 N. L. Silliman

The cash collected from tolls averaged \$45.00 to \$55.00 a month and whoever tended the Toll Gate received \$4.17 per month for his services. Some of the Gate Tenders listed included Edwin Luther, D. Peet, H. Ellis, Edward Botsford, Mr. Pratt, Mrs. Marsh, Seth Jennings, John G. Foot and Mrs. Foot, Mrs. Hall. The profits in 1869 amounted to \$375.00. In the course of the years the annual dividend rate amounted to \$1.75 or \$2.25 or \$1.50 or \$1.00 and one year \$2.75 per share. This, of course, was after all bills were paid.

The bills too were worth noting. In the winter the snow had to be cleared away from the Toll Gate and this bill amounted to about \$9.00 each year—about 25¢ was paid for every snowstorm. The Rate Board had to be painted and this cost 90¢. Also for:

Cleaning the Toll House—2 days .....	\$3.00
Pump and fixtures for Toll Gate .....	6.00
6 lbs. of nails and hinges .....	.50
Lumber and Repair of Bridges .....	8.95
Window sash and glass .....	.50
Nails, screws and door fixtures .....	1.50
etc., etc.	

The Clerk received \$2.00 a year for his services to the Company and a family generally lived in the Toll House.

The Company gave up their charter of the Road on July 23, 1887 having received \$1800 from the Town of Fairfield and \$1800 from the Town of Easton for the purchase of the Road for the Town's use. The Toll House was sold for \$75. The coal remaining in the house sold for 80¢ and the oil for the Toll House for 70¢.

(File No. 240)

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 205  
 STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House of Representatives, March 3, 1886. The Committee on Roads and Bridges reported through Mr. Tuttle, Chairman of the Committee on the part of the House, that the Resolution ought to pass.

RESOLUTION

For the discontinuance of the Weston Turnpike, and for the establishment of a Free Public Highway.

General Assembly,  
 January Session, A.D. 1886.

Resolved by this Assembly:

SECTION I. That the Weston Turnpike Company, or either of the towns in which its turnpike roads lies, may petition the superior court in and for the county of Fairfield for the discontinuance of said turnpike road, and the laying out and establishing of a free public highway in its place, which petition shall be accompanied by a summons, signed by proper authority, and served in the same manner as civil process upon the other parties interested therein. Said court shall have the same power to take any property of said turnpike company which the selectmen of any town or such court now have over individual or private property in laying out highways by the laws of this state.

SEC. 2. Unless the parties shall agree as to the judgment to be rendered on such petition, the same shall be heard by a committee of three disinterested persons, to be appointed by the court. Said committee having thereupon given at least six days' notice to the parties interested of the time and place of their meeting, shall, under oath, lay out the same and estimate the damages sustained by said company in taking their property for such free, public highway; also determine the proportion of said damages to be paid by each of said towns therefor, and report in writing their doings to said court. The said superior court, upon the acceptance of the report of said committee, shall render judgment that said towns shall pay to said turnpike company their proportion of said damages within such reasonable time as said court shall limit and appoint; and said towns, respectively, shall have power to raise and appropriate money for the payment of their portion of the same; and on failure to pay the same within the time limited by the court, execution shall issue for the same in the name and behalf of the said turnpike company; and such court shall make such order relative to costs as it shall deem just and reasonable.

SEC. 3. Whenever the property of said turnpike company shall be taken and compensation shall be made therefor for the purposes aforesaid, then such turnpike company shall surrender its property to said towns, and thereupon the same shall cease to be a turnpike road, its charter shall be repealed, and its said road shall be established as a free, public highway, and such company shall be discharged from all further liability on account of said road, and all persons traveling thereon shall be discharged from all liability to pay toll. *Provided*, said company shall retain the right to collect its dues and close up its concerns the same as though this act had not been passed; and nothing in this act contained shall affect the claim of any person against said company.

Japanese Paper Ware too was a product of Fairfield being made by the Jennings Brothers. Their catalogue and price lists included listings of Hemp Fibre Basins, pails, cuspidors, bowls, foot baths, spittoons, etc.

Mr. Augustus Jennings of Southport and Captain Isaac Jennings of Fairfield started pa-



per manufacturing about 1860 in a mill on the Aspetuck River in Easton, and began making Japanese Paper Ware in 1867.

In 1892 or 1893, Charles B. Jennings, then owner of the business, moved it to Fairfield to do away with the long distance carting by horse and wagon of coal and materials, and the finished products from the mill and his daily drive of twelve miles each way. The new mill was located at the present Round Hill Road and Paper Mill Lane.

In 1897 the mill made 30,000 pulp cannon wads for the United States Government. In 1904 the mill ceased regular production because of the increasing use of enameled ware in place of paper ware.

During that year it filled another order for pulp ignition discs, then operated intermittently until 1910 when a similar order was filled, after which it closed permanently.

In 1876 the Ware was given the Centennial Commission's Award for Lightness, Durability and Cheapness and in 1878 it was given the American Institute's Medal of Maintained Superiority. Their catalogue said of the Ware:

#### Hemp Fibre Ware

For this ware, selected stock is used throughout, thereby rendering it very strong, while at the same time the weight of the ware is kept as light as is consistent with durability. Every article is moulded entirely in one piece without joint or seam of any kind.

Each piece is subjected to heavy hydraulic pressure, uniting it into a perfect inseparable body, and is thoroughly indurated and made impervious to moisture, heat or cold.

Every article warranted Positively Waterproof

A cut of their advertisement as it appeared in the Southport Chronicle on Wednesday, April 6, 1870 appears in the picture section.

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Another early business was the ice business. The Wilsons up at the Mill made ice. They also made it over at Ted Nichols' Pond and down at Perry's and Bulkley's. The ice was cut into large blocks which were sawed by hand, then pushed down an opening in the water to the ice house where layer after layer was carefully stored in sawdust. The ice would have to be from 9" to 12" inches thick before it was cut. It was delivered to the stores and some home owners through the summer—as long as it lasted. There was a regular ice route, just as the milkman or the butcher or the tin peddler made his rounds. There is a

picture of Wilson's Icehouse in the picture section.

There was another company which one should mention. That is the Doscher Plane Company which located on Redding Road—on the east side just about half way between Verna Hill Road and Governor's Lane. There, were made small wooden planes—about one foot in length—in a small wood-working or carpenter's shop. This was probably about 1885 or 1890. The building was later moved to the Saugatuck Road in Westport where it was used as a boat building shop. The foundation for the building and the well still remain.

There was a candy factory in half of the old Fairfield hotel on Spring Street (Post Road) in 1915 operated by Shaker Naseff, a candy manufacturer from Allentown, Pennsylvania. There was also another factory, The Tyson Brothers Company—a branch of the American Rubber Substitute Co. which made rubber substitutes and stood across from the duPont Company on Mill Plain Road—where Ludlowe Court is now. That burned on May 5, 1908. This company had come from Stamford just a year previously and had shipped a number of carloads each week.

Then too there was a factory which made underwear—The Eastern Underwear Manufacturing Company—which stood on Sanford Street.

The Mohican Spring Water Company in the Fairfield Woods district was another business and was noted for its spring water for miles around and was employing twenty-five people when it burned in 1905. They made Ginger Ale Lemon Soda, Root Beer and Soda Water. One of the senior citizens with whom I spoke said it was the "best drink and tasted so good".

E. J. Flanagan had a plumbing and hardware store.

The Fairfield Aluminum Foundry Corporation which started about 1906 in Fairfield produced castings of an alloy of aluminum which proved to be of great importance to the automobile trade. The castings which were produced had a tensile strength of 52,000 lbs. to the square inch in 1907. This factory became a division of the Aluminum Company of America in 1922.

In 1957 these departments were moved to the Bridgeport plant.

Special mention should be made of those businesses which have not already been mentioned and have survived the toll of time.



### *Buckingham and Company*

Buckingham and Company started in Southport in 1892 with the initial product of coal being offered for sale. There was soon a demand for fertilizer by the farmers and this was brought by barge to Southport Harbor. It wasn't long before grain too was added to the list of saleable goods. Today this is still a family company under the leadership of Clyde S. Buckingham.

### *E. I. duPont de Nemours and Company*

The Fairfield division of the E. I. duPont de Nemours and Company was previously known as the Fairfield Rubber Company with Mr. E. P. Harral serving as president. This company originated about 1879 and manufactured rubber coated fabrics for raincoats, work aprons and carriage tops.

The duPont Company purchased the plant in 1916. The same products were manufactured except that one principal product was automobile decking.

When steel replaced rubber coated fabrics for auto tops in the early 1930's, other products were produced such as upholstery materials for trucks and furniture, corset materials, flexible ventilating tubes for underground mines, rubber coated fabrics for gaskets and diaphragms, and various other products of this type.

The major items manufactured today are designed for specific use in the rapidly growing industrial field.

### *The C. O. Jelliff Manufacturing Corporation*

Charles O. Jelliff, the youngest of seven boys, was fourteen years old at the outset of the Civil War in 1861. His brothers having gone off to War left him at home alone with his parents. As the War days closed and his brothers came home, he chose to go to a neighboring town to learn the wire business with his brother Aaron.

When Charles Jelliff came to Southport in the 1870's he rented a little store on the waterfront, bought a few groceries and numerous tin cans. He painted the cans in various colors and arranged them in tidy rows on the long shelves. These gay empty cans made a brave show and helped to impress the occasional customer. He hired a small boy to help in the store and when there were no customers in 1880, Charlie and the boy made ox muzzles, leader guards and horsehair flour sieves, the trade taught him by his father. A hand loom was used to turn out these products, for which a local market existed through a few hardware stores. From this it was

a short step to wire riddles (sieves) to separate onion seeds from chaff—truly an answer to the local farmers' prayer. Bird cage mesh and copper mesh for dynamo brushes too are listed among his early products.

As the business grew, a larger store was rented and the gaily painted empty cans were replaced by tinned foods and full cans of paint. A grocery and hardware store occupied the first floor of the new building while looms and wire working machinery were on the other floors. Another clerk was necessary and a horse and delivery wagon were purchased. On the side of the wagon was printed in big yellow letters "Charles O. Jelliff, GROCER". In 1902 with additional capital, the company became incorporated.

By 1907 this second building too was outgrown and the initial part of the current factory was erected and the C. O. Jelliff Manufacturing Corporation went on to greater success. The first power loom was immediately installed to weave twilled—herringbone brass screens to strain turpentine. For the first year this loom was powered by a kerosene engine until the United Illuminating Company's power lines reached Southport in 1908.

In 1932 the Company started making resistance wire and now draws many alloys of copper, nickel and iron for precision resistors and heating elements—both high and low temperature. Three years later the exclusive rights to the E. O. Norris patents on a process for electro-deposition of metals in the form of one piece screening were acquired by the Jelliff Co. With Mr. Norris' cooperation, the process was perfected commercially and today LEKTROMESH is one of the basic items of their line. This material is either pure copper, pure nickel or nickel-on-copper. It is produced commercially in meshes as fine as 400 per inch and as large as 25. Its great advantage is that it does not ravel at the edges nor can one distort the mesh, both sides being perfectly smooth. It has a high tensile strength and can be bent, cut, drawn, soldered and otherwise mistreated. The coarse "meshes" are produced in continuous strips from a rotating cylinder, while the finer screening (200 per inch and finer) is made in single flat sheets. In addition to weaving, Jelliff forms mesh and LEKTROMESH into fabricated products such as dipping baskets, fuel strainers, filters and other objects.

Insect screening too is another one of the Company's active products. The type 316 stain-



less steel makes the screening eminently satisfactory for salty atmospheres, since it does not ever stain paint.

During World War II, C. O. Jelliff Co. received one of the first Army-Navy "E" awards in our area and four stars were added by V-J Day. More recently the Company was honored by a special Chemical Engineering Achievement Award for its part in the Atomic Bomb Project.

Jelliff makes wire and holes formed by wires of all sizes and in all quantities. They are particularly well known for their specialization in fine wire, microscopic holes, and pilot run jobs. Orders range from hundreds of thousands of square feet down to a few square inches. Wire products in steel, brass, nickel and copper manufactured here, are now in demand for hundreds of uses.

Today this business which started as a "side line" to a grocery store on the waterfront is a large and successful industry.

#### *The Fairfield Hardware Store*

The Fairfield Hardware Store opened its doors in 1913 as the A. J. Benway Company—a paint store. In December 1914 Mr. Thomas Forsythe took over the ownership of the store, changed the name to the Fairfield Hardware Store and added a general hardware line to the items offered for sale. In March 1915 Mr. Edgar Riker, the present owner joined the staff and over the years the business has grown and the saleable articles' list expanded. As early as 1916 supplies were sent from New Haven by trolley and unloaded in front of the store the day following the placement of the order.

During World War I many wooden boxes were made and sold. These boxes were especially made for parcels to be sent overseas so that the men in service might enjoy a few goodies from home.

Mr. Riker, who has sold to customers over the years, is now selling to their grandchildren, and has seen the business change from the large purchases of one customer being replaced by perhaps fifty customers. In the early days there were many large estates in town and the caretaker did the purchasing of the large order for the estate. "Now with so many smaller houses about, people are doing their own work much more—it's the do-it-yourself age", he said.

In 1945 the Fairfield Hardware Store moved to its present location east of where it had been and on the south side of the Post Road.

Mr. Riker is proud of the fact that so many lads who started with him, selling in the store after school hours, now have their own hardware stores in nearby towns—and are successful.

#### *The Handy and Harman Company*

As the years went on, the Handy and Harman Company, whose executive office is in New York, established its plant in Fairfield in 1915,—having come from Bridgeport. The principal products at that time were sterling silver sheets, bars, wire and silver anodes for electroplating. Both products were used primarily by the silver-smithing industry in the production of sterling and plated silverware.

An important development in the Company in the early 1930's was the introduction of Easy Flo and Sil Fos, low melting brazing alloys, or strong solders for which Mr. R. H. Leach, formerly Vice-President was responsible. Those alloys found wide use throughout industry in the joining of parts for refrigerators, motors, piping, ship building, and so forth. During World War II, those products and related alloys were in extraordinary demand, and their production in unprecedented quantities earned for the Company six Army-Navy E awards.

Another important activity of this plant is the recovery of precious metal from scrap and industrial waste.

With the addition of new alloys for the electrical, electronic, and chemical industries, the technical uses of silver and other precious metals now surpass the demands of the silverware industry for which the Fairfield plant was originally established.

About 430 are employed at the local plant.

#### *Mercurio's*

Domenic Mercurio Sr. came to Fairfield in 1900 and opened a fruit store in the building where the Bracken Saloon had been located on what was then called Broad Street—now the Old Post Road. (See the picture section for a view of this first Mercurio store). From this store he went with his horse and wagon and his large baskets of fruit to the homes in the community.

The fruit—and later vegetables too, were always the best and Mr. Mercurio took great pride in arranging it just right on the stands. The fruit had to be fresh and it had to be perfect. There was a rule which applied to all—no one *touched* the fruit. The story goes that after the stands had been ever so carefully arranged he put a



cocoanut on the stand and had a sign next to it which read: "Don't Pinch the FRUIT—Pinch the COCOANUT".

By 1913 the site of the first little store was sold and Mr. Mercurio opened at a new location on Spring Street—now the Post Road—the current location of MERCURIO'S.

At the new site, business expanded and the old reliable horse and wagon were eclipsed by a used Stevens-Duryea touring car converted into a truck. None of the traditions were abandoned however. It was still against the law of the store to pinch anything but the cocoanut. The fruits and vegetables still had to be the best. Groceries were soon added for the customers. First came a line of premium macaroni products. Then came the rest of the groceries, top foodstuffs for which the store is still noted. Many of us remember the large bunches of bananas which always hung outside the door. There were always two bunches—one the bright golden yellow variety and the other of the shorter chunky rich red kind and to a child of the time, they seemed the largest and most luscious bananas that ever grew.

The Mercurio children had worked side by side with their Dad and in 1928 they assumed the responsibility of the store. The small Post Road store was enlarged.

In 1930 MERCURIO'S was singled out by Fortune Magazine as an example of a family grocery store in a period when chain stores were coming of age. Once again in 1934 the store was expanded.

The reputation of MERCURIO'S spread as a fine store where the seeker of the best in food could buy everything. Besides the items for the average meal, there were the epicure's delight. You could buy a loaf of plain white bread or a box of imported Dutch biscuits—a pound of hamburger or a tin of snails, pheasant or truffles—store cheese or Italian Bel Paese; a chocolate bar or a \$4.25 pound tin of assorted glazed fruits.

This has been a real family store from the beginning and now the third generation of the family is actively engaged in the business. This is truly a Mercurio business and truly a Fairfield business.

#### *Switzer's Drug Store*

Switzer's Drug Store in Southport has had a long record of business, having first been established on the waterfront in 1860—about where the Pequot Yacht Club now stands. J. Frederick

Jennings, we believe, was the first owner. Harding B. Rieffestahl another owner sold the store to K. J. Damtoft in 1885. The store under the new ownership was open seven days a week and not unlike the drug stores of today carried in addition to drugs—candy and kerosene. That store also had the first phone in Southport—a wall phone. Mr. Frank V. Damtoft, son of K. J. told me that as a little boy he attended Miss Augusta Smith's Seaside Seminary and as he drove his goat past the store each day on the way to school, the goat refused to go by the Drug Store until his father—K. J. had come out of the store and given the goat a piece of candy.

In 1895 the store was sold to Luin B. Switzer and in 1920 it was moved from the harbor to its present location and expanded. A picture of the first store is included in the picture section of the book.

#### *The Bullard Company*

Edward P. Bullard, who had lost both his parents before he was seven, had been brought up on a farm near Great Barrington, Massachusetts. The jobs that gave this boy his greatest pleasure were those in or near the tool shed. It was said that this was his world at an early age and special care was given to each tool. A chance to repair or adjust these early farm tools and simple machinery brought the lad running. This interest was recognized and encouraged by the farm family with whom he lived and arrangements were made for Mr. Bullard to serve an apprenticeship in a machine shop in Whitinsville, Massachusetts — immediately following his seventeenth birthday. From then until 1880 his life was filled with valuable experiences which led to his founding in a rented loft in Bridgeport a machine shop.

The Bullard Company, organized in 1880 as the Bridgeport Machine Tool Works on Broad Street, Bridgeport by E. P. Bullard moved to its present location in Fairfield in 1920. The products which were initially offered were engine lathes, these having been designed by Mr. Bullard. In 1894 the name of the company was changed to the Bullard Machine Tool Company and six years later the first vertical turret lathe, which currently accounts for a large portion of the Company's business, was produced.

Just six years before the Company moved to Fairfield Mult-Au-Matic, a multi-spindle machine which performs operations automatically so that one such machine can perform all jobs necessary to complete a part was introduced. In



1923 the Franklin Gold's Medal for leadership was awarded Mr. E. P. Bullard, Jr.

The flight of Charles A. Lindbergh to Paris in 1927 marked the opening of another era in which the Bullard Machine Tool Company was to play an important part—the age of flight. The firm's early service to aviation was rewarded by a certificate of appreciation from the Guggenheim Fund for the Promotion of Aeronautics.

In 1929 the corporate name of the company became The Bullard Company.

In 1937 the Bullard Company received new plaudits in the form of a presentation of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers annual award to E. P. Bullard, Jr., for "outstanding leadership in the development of the station type of machine tools" and four years later a new assembly building was planned and built.

1945 brought the introduction of an electro-hydraulic device — Man-Au-Trol, which performs a cycle of functions automatically when used on a Vertical Turret Lathe, and the next year a Spacer Table, a positioning machine which eliminates use of jigs and fixtures normally required to determine location of holes, was introduced.

The shipment of the 20,000th Vertical Turret Lathe took place in 1955 and a year later the new Bullard Grey iron foundry was completed.

It is remarkable to realize that this Company which was family owned for more than forty years and now some eighty years after its founding is still headed by a family member—Edward P. Bullard III, grandson of the founder.

### *The Max Ams Machine Company*

The Max Ams Machine Company, manufacturers of automatic machinery for cans and metal containers as well as for presses and dies moved to Fairfield in 1915 from Mount Vernon, New York.

The Civil War gave the first great impetus to canning in our country. A million blue-clad Union soldiers were clamoring for milk and food processed by Yankee canners. The enormous advantage of having canned foods over dried foods was emphasized by the event of the War. Even in 1849 when the gold fever broke out canned food came in great demand because of adaptability for transportation and convenience.

The sanitary can had its beginning with the Max Ams Preserving Company of 372 Green-

wich Street, New York City. Mr. Max Ams engaged in the canning and packing business in 1868 and soon established a very large export business of American foods. He was an enterprising preserver of food and was continually experimenting with not only containers, but also with waterproof and oil proof compounds for lining the outer rim of the cover in order to obtain a perfectly air tight can. In 1888 Mr. Ams' son, Charles M. Ams, a graduate chemist was taken into the firm which assumed the firm name of The Max Ams Company and took up the problems of the hermetically sealing of food products. At that time the can tops had been either soldered on by hand or a paper ring or rubber ring was used on the flange to make the can air tight if possible by double seaming. A double seamer of the hand type was in use in those days for seaming the bottoms on tin pails, cannisters and sheet metal boxes. There had been almost as many leaky cans as there were perfect ones.

Charles M. Ams introduced the liquid compound for lining the outer rim of the cover, and he applied the compound by hand with a camel's hair brush.

After this method was introduced it became necessary to make a machine for lining the covers with the compound. Mr. Julius Brenzinger, the mechanical expert of the company produced just that and in 1897 took out a patent for such a machine. It was Mr. Brenzinger who produced the double seamers for the canning industry as well. In 1896 the working staff of the plant consisted of Mr. Brenzinger, four men and two boys.

The can was soon advertised as "The Can Without the Cap Hole" and "Bottom Like the Top" and

**S**anitary Can  
Sealed Without  
Solder or Acid

Mr. Charles M. Ams succeeded his father Max Ams as president in 1908. The Max Ams can and The Sanitary Can became synonymous.

The Max Ams Machine Company attained success in manufacturing machines for the producing of square, round, oval and irregular shaped tin cans sealed without solder, flux or heat for all kinds of food products and also machinery and tools for the making of tin and sheet metal ware in general.

A plant was erected in Turin, Italy to handle



its European trade. In 1911 the company received the International Industrial Exposition Award at the Turin Exposition.

This company, now specialists in can making machinery, is another which has been guided by descendents of the original founding family from its beginning. Today the name of Ams still stands in a place of leadership in the Company.

When the 20th Century dawned and larger and more centralized business establishments took their place in town, mechanization took over for hand done activities. Transportation became

easier and goods from other parts of the Country and the World were made much more accessible. Increased communications brought new ideas, new modes and manners to Fairfield along with new responsibilities.

This has shown Fairfield's businesses of yesterday. There were no doubt many, many others which were established, prospered and then gave way to still others. To be sure we have realized once again that because Fairfield's people have been busy and industrious we have been given a great background.

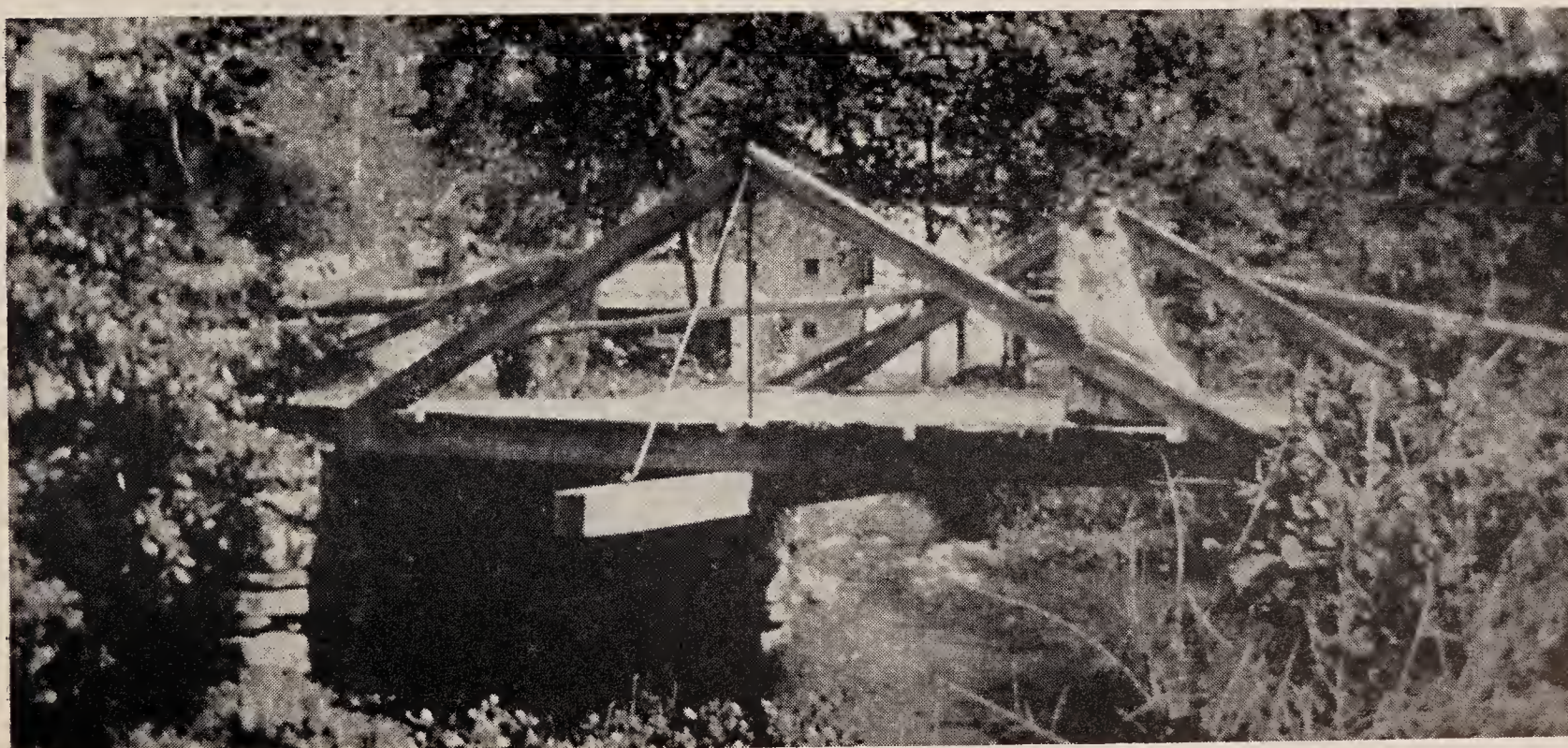




*Pulpit Rock—Unquowa Road  
(opposite Roger Ludlowe High School)*



*Old Oak Tree—Bronson Road  
(opposite Oaklawn Cemetery)*



*Bridge over Mill River—Plattsville—1890*





*Above—Early Trolley  
Right—Later Model*



*X marks the spot where John Dimon was taken prisoner—Aspetuck Corners— during Revolutionary War times.*



*Fred Disbrow and his delivery wagon*



*1894—Fred Disbrow's Southport Market—cleanest and most sanitary in Connecticut at that time—on Main Street—between Savings Bank and Pequot Inn (front yard of Pequot School) — Groceries, meats, fruits, vegetables—(Confectionery and Ice Cream Store next door operated by Charles E. Bulkley). See meat block in foreground —meat saws hanging up, etc.*



*Load of seaweed—  
Fairfield Water  
Fountain*



*Ash Creek Bridge*



*Summer Trolley*



# R. H. Shumway

SEEDSMAN • ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS  
THE PIONEER AMERICAN SEEDSMAN • ESTABLISHED 1870  
89 ANNUAL CATALOG OF SEEDS AND PLANTS • 1959



## 567 Red Welthersfield

The largest yielder in cultivation—often producing 1,000 bushels per acre. Though well suited to the large-size onions are quite thick. The outer skin is deep rich purple-red, smooth and glossy. The flesh is white, lightly tinged with pinkish rose near the skin. The onions are attractive, solid and have a pleasing onion flavor. It is a standard late variety which will keep in storage for a long time. Splendid for sets and widely grown for full size onions. Pkt., 50 cts.; oz., 65 cts.; ¼ lb., \$1.50; ½ lb., \$2.50; lb., \$4.00, postpaid.

## 568 Southport Yellow Globe

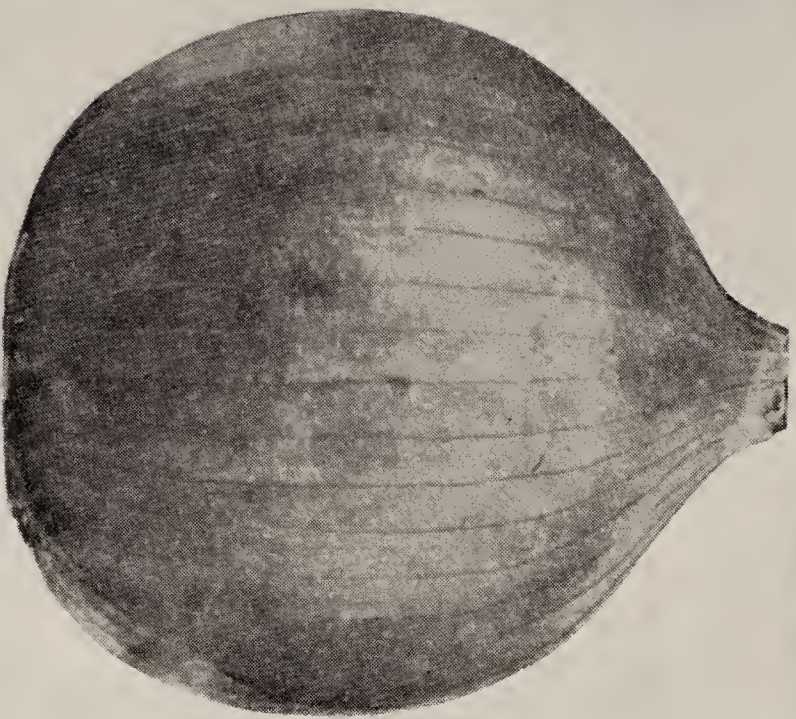
My seed of this grand variety is of the finest home grown strain. The onions mature all at the same time and are remarkably uniform in size, shape, color and quality. The skin is bright golden yellow and the flesh is pure white. It is mild, solid and juicy. The onions are globe shape with slender neck. Have wonderful keeping quality. Will store well until late spring. Very productive. Pkt., 15 cts.; oz., 50 cts.; ¼ lb., \$1.10; ½ lb., \$2.00; lb., \$3.75, postpaid.

## 575 Early Yellow Bermuda

**Sweetest Onion**  
The most widely and largely planted of the Bermuda varieties. Bermuda Onions are noted as the mildest and sweetest of all onions. They are flat in shape and make fine large bulbs. The Yellow Bermuda is of a clear light straw color, a wonderful yielder. Pkt., 15 cts.; oz., 50 cts.; ¼ lb., \$1.10; ½ lb., \$2.00; lb., \$3.75, postpaid.

## 569 Southport White Globe

Used annually by the largest commercial growers. The most attractive large round onion with pure paper-white skin. This flesh is also pure white, sweet, juicy and of a most delightful mild flavor. It is a main-crop variety which will store well for winter consumption. A wonderful variety for early market and a big money maker. Pkt., 15 cts.; oz., 50 cts.; ¼ lb., \$1.10; ½ lb., \$2.00; lb., \$3.75, postpaid.



*You can still enjoy the Southport Yellow Globe Onion.*





*1903—Dedication of Southport Water Fountain—Dorothy Ripley Chapter D.A.R.—Note Fountain covered completely by American Flag. Waterfront stores are at the top of picture.*



*St. Mary's  
Chapel-  
By-the-Sea  
—a favorite  
spot for  
weddings*

*Ash Creek  
is in foreground*







*About 1880—note sign post where  
fountain now stands.*

*“Looking up Main Street”*



*Southport on a sunny afternoon—notice cars—about 1909*

*Fairfield Center —  
about 1906. Note  
street light and trol-  
ley tracks. This is  
looking west with  
Clampett's Corner—  
the Post Office on  
the center left.*







*St. Mark's Hotel on Old Post Road. Front now removed and used by Fairfield Chapter American Red Cross as the headquarters. Hotel had a large ballroom.*



*Hobart's Store on Beach Road—  
stood just to the east of the Town Hall—  
1849—Post Office and Groceries*





*Greenfield Hill Grange Float*



*D. A. R.*

*Connecticut Tercentenary Parade—September 28, 1935*



*The Gold Dragoons*



*Talley Ho!*



## CHAPTER 13

### FARMING MONTH BY MONTH IN FAIRFIELD IN 1813

January—Threshing, went clamming, dressed flax and began to spin, breaking flax, killed a steer, picked stones off lot, thresh flooring of oats.

February—First lamb, clamming, threshing, fan oats, dressed flax for the wheel, shelled corn, cut wood, prune trees in February before sap begins to run.

March—Shelled corn, twin lambs, crackle flax, dressed flax, went clamming, more lambs, make cart whips, gathered brush, dug up building stone, set geese eggs, plant peas, radishes, cut chestnut saw logs, cut alders, sow hay seed.

April—Dress flax, set up ashes for soap, make soap, carry 1 barrel vinegar, 3 bushels parsnips, 1½ bushels beets to Mill River for New York. Get some cloth which had been dressed and dyed blue, splitting hills, dug the asparagus bed, planted peppergrass, clamming, stub and burn briers, cart brush, graft trees, yoked steers, harrowed, plowed, butted saw logs, second calf born, set 63 Turkey eggs, cart salt peter, geese begin to hatch, steers almost command, made the garden, cart manure, dug parsnips, dug stone.

May—Pick peppergrass, planting, pulled the first radishes, spread manure, turkeys hatching, wash the sheep, planted potatoes and pumpkins, carried cider to the distillery, potatoes to Mill River to go to New York, chicken hatching, apple trees bloom, planted melons.

June—Carted seaweed, hoed corn and potatoes, mended road, picked peas, pulled turnips, hill potatoes, go for strawberries, half hill corn, went a clamming and a musseling, a

king crabbing, carted seaweed and sanfire, set out some tobacco, began to mow, rake hay, got some horsefeet, planted watermelon, cucumbers.

July—Mowed, new potatoes for dinner as large as eggs, pulled beets for dinner—size of corn cob, cradling grain, picked first cucumbers, sharpened rails, pulled flax.

August—Had corn and beans and squash for dinner, topping stalks, cradled oats, sent onions and potatoes to New York—sowed turnips, finished hay harvest, repaired cider press, plowed, made first cider, cut briers, mowed salt meadows, harrowed.

September—Cleaned rye, carted salt hay, go a graping, made cider, threshed and winnowed some rye, pay taxes \$14.19, topped stalks, carted manure, fanned rye, sowing grain, went for oysters, fine weather for drying peaches.

October—Made cider, sowed grass seed, dug potatoes, finished sowing wheat, gathered apples, picked quinces, clean flax, cut wood, picked corn, went for chestnuts, clamming, thresh a grist of rye, husked corn.

November—Husked corn, whitewash house, picked corn, mended highways, dug beets, pulled turnips, took up flax, fenced haystack, cut turnips, carted savin brush, carted stalks, got seaweed, dressed poultry for Thanksgiving, thresh oats, yoked young oxen, set frost fish pots.

December—Fanned oats, threshed a grist of rye, carted seaweed, butchered hogs, threshed a little, catching frost fish, cart brush, butchered hogs, fan wheat, cut up pork, shocked rye, fixed sausage meat.



## CHAPTER 14

### FIN FISH AND SHELLFISH AND THEIR ESTEEMED VALUE TO FAIRFIELD FAMILIES

The shellfish and fin fish were a very important source of food for the early people. On April 27, 1721 a special Town Meeting was held to prevent the destruction of Oysters along Fairfield's Shores. Any who took them and were caught would be fined. Then again on Dec. 27, 1764 the Town Meeting Records show that they met and agreed to protect the oyster and clam-beds.

The said Inhabitants have agreed and ordered and do hereby agree and order that no persons what-so-ever shall directly or indirectly take, catch or break from their beds any Oysters or Clams, commonly called Round Clams in any Harbors, Creeks or Cove within the bounds and limits of this Town anytime within two years from the first of January next . . . any person . . . shall forfeit for every such offence the sum of twenty shillings lawful money—( $\frac{3}{4}$  to the informer and  $\frac{1}{4}$  to the Town Treasury)—except upon application of a woman in the state of pregnancy or a long continued sickness or such pregnant woman shall have a longing desire for Oysters or Round Clams—in such case the Selectmen may in writing permit such quantity as they deem sufficient—(this permit given to the person catching same).

It was further voted that after the close of the two year period *all* must have a permit to take either oysters or clams and there was a 20 shilling fine if one did not have a permit. A Committee of Townsmen was chosen to prosecute the offenders.

Clambroth was believed to be healing and highly nutritious. I remember my Dad telling about a man who was very near death in the height of winter. His son went to the beach for clams. He was only able to dig 10 clams for the weather was very extreme. These 10 clams were cooked upon the son's return home and the thought was that the broth had saved the father's life.

Two years later it was voted "that anyone who pulls down ye stones belonging to ye pillows under Squires Bridge or to catch any oysters growing on said pillows they shall forfeit £5 for

each offense". This evidently continued as a favorite spot to gather oysters for again in 1769 mention is made of taking oysters from Squier's Bridge and a fine of 20 shillings was again imposed. Job Bartram was assigned the task of prosecuting all breaches of this act.

On Dec. 18, 1789, it was made unlawful to take Oysters from Ash House Creek.

The records show that on April 10, 1806 another stand was taken on this matter. Voted:

1. Be it ordained that no person or persons not an inhabitant of or residing within the limits of said town shall be permitted to dig or catch any clams or oysters or on any of the shores or within any of the harbors, shores, creeks, rivers or flats of said town. And that any person or persons who may be found guilty of breach of this ordinance shall be fined in a sum exceeding 17 dollars for each offense.
2. Be it ordained that no inhabitant of or residing within this town without a permission from a Justice of the Peace shall be allowed to catch any oysters in the part of the Saugatuck River within the limits of said town after the 1st day of May till the 1st day of September annually and a penalty of 5 dollars for each and every offense so committed.
3. Be it ordained that one third of all monies received from breeches of the preceding rules and ordinances shall be paid into the Town Treasury and the remaining two thirds to the complainant who shall prosecute to effect.

One wonders if the old belief of oysters not being "fit to eat" unless there is an R in the name of the month did not enter into this decision.

On April 20, 1812 Mr. John Stratton was given "the exclusive privilege of shad fishing from a line to be drawn from Beers Point so called to Roberson Wharf northerly to the dam of Burr's Mill during his life".

In 1819 it was reported that Oysters and Clams had been taken in great numbers from Fairfield's Shores. Thus the supply had been depleted. Shad and fin fish were listed as plentiful. That same year Mill River "appeared to be



full of small mackeral". (This was also true in 1920)

At a meeting duly warned and held on Sept. 16, 1822 it was again voted that:

No person is to take oysters or scallops from May 1 to September 1 from any harbor, creek or river in Fairfield without first getting a special license from the inspector of that area.

and then only people from Fairfield and Norwalk were allowed to obtain these special licenses and they were first to cut off young oysters or scallops not suitable for eating and leave them. There was a fine for each transgression of one dollar per bushel with  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the total amount or 50¢ per bushel going to the complainer and the other half to the Town's Treasury. This is the first mention of scallops but if they too were available by the bushel to those with permits, there must have been quite a few of them.

On Dec. 11, 1826 the Town records show:

Resolved that if any person shall take any oysters in waters within limits of the Town of Fairfield other than Tuesdays and Saturdays, he shall be fined not less than one dollar nor more than \$17—same fine if he takes more than ten bushels in one day—(from common property—not property of an individual).

In 1840, 16,000 fish were caught in Black Rock Harbor on June 14. Scallops were said to be innumerable. The preceding year 40,000 fish had been caught in the Harbor.

The efforts of our predecessors to save the shellfish from annihilation continued and in 1846 the Selectmen were ordered to stake out the Oyster beds which they did for Thomas B. Bartram, Daniel Wilson of Black Rock and William Sherwood and in 1866 a committee of five was appointed for the same task. Two years later the Town voted that not more than two bushels of oysters could be taken in any one 24 hours. Anyone who was caught breaking the law was fined \$17.00.

This editorial appeared in the Southport Chronicle in 1868.

Southporters have, right at their very doors, a never failing supply of that delicious bivalve—the oyster; or rather would have with proper protective laws to keep away those piratical crafts from neighboring ports, who scoop up and carry off, right from under our very noses, seed oysters. We had better organize again into a Borough, unless we can have a TOWN law strong enough to protect us in this respect. (And by the way, we need borough laws in other matters too.) If we understand the doings of the last town meeting, a vote was passed extending the time when no oysters can be taken

from the harbor until November 1st, instead of September 1st, as heretofore. But if the notice requires two weeks publishing, as we hear rumored, the "pirates" will "do" us again this year, unless the "boys" take matters into their own hands and make the harbors too hot to hold them.

This one appeared in the same newspaper just two years later:

The Southport Chronicle, Sept. 14, 1870—THE TAKING OF OYSTERS. Measures have been taken to enforce strictly both the Town and the State laws regulating the taking of oysters in the waters within the limits of the Town of Fairfield.

In order that all may have fair warning, we print in another column our Town and State laws on this subject.

It will be observed that, by the State law, every person is forbidden to take or gather oysters from the first day of April to the fifteenth day of October in each year, under severe penalty.

Our Town law, enacted at a legally warned Town meeting, holden August 21st, 1868, provides that no person shall take or gather any oysters in the waters within the limits of the Town, or in the waters and flats adjoining and belonging to it, exceeding in quantity two bushels in any one twenty-four hours, under a penalty of seventeen dollars for each offense. This law applies to every month in the year.

Our citizens must, therefore, be careful not to take any oysters until after the 15th of October, and even then they must never take more than two bushels in any one twenty-four hours in the waters within Town jurisdiction.

We also call attention to the provision in the State law respecting non-residents. The boats or vessels of oystermen who do not reside in Connecticut, and have not so resided for six months preceding, used by them in gathering oysters in the waters of this State, may be seized by any person.

Let this be borne in mind, and if any foreign oystermen are found gathering oysters near our harbor, let their boats be seized at once. Do not wait for a warrant, but immediately after the seizure, give notice to two of our justices and they will have the boats delayed.

Last Fall we were considerably troubled by the presence of a fleet of oyster vessels in our very harbor. If they come again this year, let us see to it that they are taught a lesson which will secure us, hereafter, from their piratical visits.

The State Laws protecting the bivalves were also quoted to admonish the transgressors.

The Southport Chronicle, Sept. 14, 1870

#### STATE OYSTER LAW

Every person who shall from the first day of April until the fifteenth day of October, in each year, take, gather, or collect, any oysters, or oyster shells, in or upon any of the flats, creeks, banks, rivers, harbors, or waters, of this State, shall for each offense be punished by a fine of not less than seven dollars, nor more than fifty dollars, or by imprison-



ment in the workhouse, or common jail, of the county in which the offense shall be committed, not exceeding thirty days, or by such fine and imprisonment both, one half of which shall be to him who shall sue therefor, and prosecute his suit to effect, and the other half to the treasury of the town in which the offense is committed; but nothing, in this section contained, shall be so construed as to prohibit any person from re-taking any oysters belonging to him and by him laid down or planted, and not so laid down or planted in or upon any natural oyster beds, or places where oysters naturally grow, nor extend to any town which shall have dissented from its provisions, at a legal meeting of the inhabitants of such town, duly warned, and held on or before the first day of November, 1842, excepting the towns of Norwalk and Milford.

. . . . No person except the owner, shall take, gather, or collect, any oysters, in any of the navigable waters of this State, in any season of the year in the night time, between the setting of the sun and the rising of the same, on penalty, for every offense, of not less than seven dollars nor more than fifty dollars, or by imprisonment in the common jail or workhouse, not exceeding thirty days; one half of which penalty shall be to him who shall sue therefor, and prosecute his suit to effect, and the other half to the treasury of the town in which the offense is committed.

There is also a provision that "no person who is not at the time an actual inhabitant or resident of this State, and who has not been, for six months next preceding, an actual inhabitant or resident of the State, shall take, rake or gather, any oysters, either for himself or for his employer, in any of the rivers, bays, or waters of this State, on board of any canoe, flat, scow, skiff, boat or vessel, on penalty of twenty dollars, one half to the treasury of the town where the offense is committed and the other half to him who shall prosecute to effect."

It is further provided that "sheriffs and constables shall seize, and any other person may seize" any boat, vessel, &c. so used by any such person in gathering oysters, and forthwith give notice to two Justices of the Peace, residing in the town, and the Justices are to give an order for the detention of such boat. Notice is to be given to the parties to appear, and upon conviction such boat is to be forfeited and sold, and the avails thereof, after deducting costs, be paid one half to him who made the seizure, and the other half to the treasury of the town where the offense was committed. There is a heavy penalty for resisting the officer or person making the seizure.

In 1871 a Committee made up of Wakeman B. Meeker, Oliver Turney and Simon Squires was directed to designate places for planting Oysters.

Owners of the Oyster grounds just deeded were required to set buoys to mark their property and \$1.10 had to be paid to the Commissioners for each acre. The Commissioners setting

the corner buoys, furnishing the deed and the map while the Ground Owners furnished boats, buoys and helped. The Commissioners supplied two sextant observers.

In 1884, 19 Oyster deeds were recorded and it was also reported that "Crabbing seems to be the principal sport now a days for our citizens. Large numbers are caught at New Creek and a group of men caught 150 striped bass on Sunday at Fairfield Bridge".

On July 10, 1884 The Fairfield Advertiser listed the Oyster Ground Deeds Recorded:

The State Fish and Shell Commissioners have granted Oyster Grounds in the Town of Fairfield to the following persons:

1883

Recorded June 27, Samuel Currier of Stratford, Oct. 16, 1883, 516 acres.

Recorded July 25, Samuel Currier of Stratford, May 14, 108 acres.

Recorded Nov. 10, Samuel Currier of Stratford, Oct. 1, 8 acres.

Recorded Nov. 10, Hannah Witt of Bridgeport, Oct. 1, 8 acres.

Recorded Dec. 3, Alfred D. Carson of Norwalk, May 7, 100 acres.

Recorded Dec. 24, B. G. & G. B. Beardsley of Stratford, Oct. 29, 354 acres.

Recorded Jan. 9, 1884, E. B. Stebbins of New Haven, Dec. 29, 25 acres.

Recorded Feb. 13, Henry J. Lewis of Meriden, Oct. 1, 64 acres.

Recorded Apr. 3, Fred Smith of Stratford, Aug. 27, 51 acres.

Recorded Apr. 3, Fred Smith of Stratford, Aug. 27, 119 acres.

Recorded Apr. 3, Fred Smith of Stratford, Oct. 1, 8 acres.

Recorded May 21, Clinton Beebe of Stratford, Aug. 27, 8 acres.

Recorded May 21, Charles Beebe of Stratford, Aug. 27, 67 acres.

Recorded May 21, Charles Beebe of Stratford, Aug. 27, 8 acres.

Recorded May 21, W. H. Stevens of Stratford, Oct. 1, 183 acres.

Recorded June 12, Edgar B. Stebbins of New Haven, May 1, 15 acres.

#### Transfers

The Oyster Ground Transfers are:

July 19, 1883, Samuel Currier of Stratford to John C. Bond of Stratford. 50 acres recorded, May 19, 1884.

May 19, 1884, Frederick A. Smith to Chester A. Smith & John C. Bond both of Stratford and undivided two thirds of 119 and five tenths acres recorded May 19, 1884.

May 19, 1884, Frederick A. Smith to John C. Bond of Stratford, 8 6/10 acres.



July 19, 1883, Samuel Currier to George S. Bond of Fairfield. 50 acres recorded May 28, 1884.  
 Oct. 16, 1882, Samuel Currier to Dr. Jacob May of Stratford. 258 acres recorded June 26, 1884.

The newspapers of the time continued to talk about the Fish and Shellfish of the area.

Dec. 15, 1868—Southport Chronicle—Frost fish are quite plenty now about the docks. The young anglers are busy every morning, and hardly ever fail to secure a “good mess”.

Oct. 8, 1885—The Fairfield Advertiser—Frost fish are now biting good.

\* \* \*

The steam oyster boat Bond and Currier is taking up seed oysters off this place.

\* \* \*

and on Oct. 15, 1885—Fairfield Advertiser —

Last week the oyster steamer Golden Gate of Bridgeport, put into this harbor for repairs. On Sunday morning as the tide went down she keeled over, but on account of being so deep, she filled with water before the tide was high enough to float her. At high tide Capt. G. Bond and T. Mitchell, went to work and succeeded in righting her, and when the tide was low enough pumped the water out of it. The water did considerable damage to her engine and machinery.

This account from the Nov. 4, 1886 issue of The Fairfield Advertiser.

The starfish are making sad havoc with the Oyster beds off Southport. Morris & Son and Bond and Currier are the principal owners of the ground under cultivation in that section, and both have their steam dredges at work trying to subdue the pests and save the oysters. Bond and Currier are taking up their oysters and replanting them after weeding out the stars. In addition to their own boat, Morris & Son have brought into service the steamer Virginia. It is not an uncommon thing for each steamer to bring up 75 bushels of the stars as the result of a day’s work. Laucroft Bros. of New Haven are going over their beds with a patent dredge, dcsigned to scoop up the starfish without much disturbing the oysters. Several inventions of this order have been tried and failed to work satisfactorily but the one referred to is said to operate well, 150 bushels of stars being an ordinary day’s catch for it.

Advertisement

Dec. 28, 1870—Southport Chronicle  
 Stevens & Hoyt  
 planters and dealers in  
 Norwalk and Bridgeport

OYSTERS

12 Wall St., Bridgeport, Conn.  
 Oysters opened or in the shell, constantly on hand.  
 Also Fish, Fruits in their season, Clams, Escallops.  
 Frank H. Stevens                      Lewis H. Hoyt

In Mr. Frank Sherwood’s account books I found the following prices:

Jan. 1870  
 3 barrels oysters @ 5.50 ..... 16.50  
 7 barrels oysters @ 4.00 ..... 28.00  
 1 barrel clams ..... 1.00

Sept. 20, 1875  
 1 peck clams ..... 25¢

The Town records for June 26, 1908 showed this continued concern for the sea creatures.

June 26, 1908—We the undersigned, Selectmen of the Town of Fairfield, do hereby appoint Elmore S. Banks, an elector of said Town, Town Oyster Committee for said town, to hold office for one year from the date hereof, with power to designate suitable places in the navigable waters within the jurisdiction of said town for planting or cultivating oysters, clams, or mussels.

E. B. Morehouse } Selectmen of  
 A. B. Wakeman } the Town of  
 S. C. Bradley } Fairfield

The February 10, 1923 issue of the newspaper *The Fairfield News* showed the standing of the shell fisheries of that time when it stated that the

Town Has 66 Acres of Shell Fisheries

Fairfield has 66 acres of Shell Fisheries. The once extensive grounds that spread practically the whole length of the shore in this section, have dwindled but in Fairfield waters west of Penfield Reef, 2 Oyster Companies still find a fertile field. Talmadge Brothers of New Haven own 60 acres and the Radel Oyster Company of Bridgeport has 6 acres which is assessed by the Town at \$350. The total assessment for the oyster grounds is \$3,150.

First hand accounts show how important the clams, oysters and other shellfish and fish were to our forebears for food. From Hull Sherwood’s diary —

May 27, 1812—clear and pleasant and quite warm. I and Walter Ogden went to Stratford after shad. I got 24 and he 42—we returned before night. I got Eleanor a pair of shoes at Bridgeport. The Godfreys catch 23 shad.

\* \* \*

May 30, 1812—Mr. Straton caught 24 shad at Mill River.

\* \* \*

June 12—I dine at sister Eunice’s on lobsters.

\* \* \*

Aug. 13, 1812—Some rain in the morning . . . returned home before noon and then went to Mill River for crabs with Walter Ogden but the rain came on again so we caught none.

\* \* \*

Dec. 15—Nowadays we live on frost fish principally—have had 2 pots set since last November.

\* \* \*

Mar. 24, 1814—Went to Stratford clamming—got 5 pecks—started at half past 3 in the morning —returned at 2 p.m.—rode Walter’s horse.



Mar. 1816—We live partly on eggs, pancakes and clams.

From Jonathan Bulkley:

Oct. 27, 1811—Sloop Packet arrived this morning from Long Island with about 200 bushels scallops. Barrel of Mackerel \$5.50.

\* \* \*

Sept. 1815—

Great quantity of scallops at Long Island this Fall—several boats have been over and got a great many.

\* \* \*

May 30, 1818—Saturday Mr. N. B. Alvord caught 34 shad at Mill River, the most that have been caught for 2 years past altogether.

\* \* \*

March 1824—A new bed of oysters has likely been discovered off the west end of Norwalk Islands of a very superior quality.

\* \* \*

Feb. 5, 1846—Weather remarkably pleasant . . . a great quantity of oysters are taken off the Bar and along shore by small and large craft and sold at 37½ to 50¢ per bushel and very good.

\* \* \*

Jan. 9, 1847—Cap't. Meeker went out oystering on Friday last and brought in about 70 bushels between the Bar and Compo.

\* \* \*

March 7, 1847—There are at this time opposite our house fifty persons more or less on the clam flats catching clams.

\* \* \*

March 9, 1847—Sloop Merchant and Byran went out today on Oyster bank and caught about 20 bushels each—new business to take oysters off our Bar.

\* \* \*

March 23, 1848—Sister went to New York—15 in the Stage . . . Seven oyster vessels came up our harbor, one after the other.

\* \* \*

May 22, 1849—Plenty of round clams about these days.

From Frank L. Sherwood:

July 29, 1870—Had a boil of clams.

\* \* \*

Oct. 29, 1870—Went oystering with Abe at Southport and caught 8 bushels.

\* \* \*

Feb. 17, 1871—Went to Southport Clamming.

\* \* \*

Mar. 22, 1871—Went to Fox Hunter's Fourth Annual Oyster Supper and ball held at William C. Smith's. Henry played. Stayed all night. Had a grand time. The room was decorated with 17 fox skins hanging around. (Oyster suppers were very popular.)

June 17, 1871—Went clamming to Pine Creek.

\* \* \*

Nov. 21, 1871—Went down to McKenzie's Point after seaweed and across the Creek at Southport clamming, had our ox team, came up in the evening.

\* \* \*

April 1872—Went clamming down to Great Marsh.

\* \* \*

April 1873—Went to Green's Mill<sup>1</sup> (Ash Creek) after clams and mussels.

\* \* \*

June 1873—Went to Fairfield Bar after Horsefeet<sup>2</sup> (horseshoe crabs)—caught 100 horsefeet and a good mess of clams.

\* \* \*

June 1873—Went to Pine Creek for clams. Stayed all night on the beach. Caught 3 pks. of round clams.

\* \* \*

July 1873—Father, Capt. Grumman and myself went to Pine Creek after clams—had a boil on the Beach. Walked home by way of Mill Hill.

Aug. 28, 1873—A great clambake at Gregory's Point—The Fat Man's Association.

\* \* \*

Oct. 14, 1873—Went to Southport after oysters—caught about 4 bushels.

\* \* \*

Oct. 18, 1873—Went for Oysters—caught about a bushel.

\* \* \*

Jan. 22, 1875—Went clamming at Sasco.

\* \* \*

Sept. 9, 1875—Went to Green's Mill after Clams—caught a good mess—took them over to Pine Creek and had sort of a picnic—all of our folks were there.

\* \* \*

Nov. 29, 1888—Went to Bill Smith's and we went to Pine Creek clamming. William also went to the beach and brought home a load of seaweed.

\* \* \*

Dec. 25, 1888—Went to Pine Creek Clamming.

Thus with the increase of commercial usage of these creatures, the shellfish disappeared from the Fairfield shoreline. Now it is indeed difficult to find six clams on our beaches not to mention oysters of any kind. These too have become part of the past.

<sup>1</sup> Children went swimming at the dock below the dam of Green's Mills near the outlet of Ash Creek. The mill was a tide mill and the current was swift. Green's Mills was a favorite spot for clams and mussels.

<sup>2</sup> Horsefeet of Horseshoe crabs were often kindly spoken of as Greenfield Lobsters. A group of good Greenfield folk are seen enjoying a feast of horsefeet about 1890 in the picture section of this book. For those of you who enjoy seafood and have never tasted this delicious shellfish, you have really missed a treat. They are most delectable. They are anthropoids which date back to prehistoric days.



## CHAPTER 15

### FAIRFIELD'S WILD AND DOMESTIC ANIMALS

This section may seem extraneous to some but because of the many references made to these creatures throughout the available records, it seemed that a section considering the place of the animals—both wild and domestic would interest a goodly number of readers. These early people worked hard for everything which was to become theirs. Once it was theirs they cared for it unstintingly. Livestock was of value—real value. Wild animals were a concern—real concern.<sup>1</sup>

One of the excuses that Roger Ludlowe gave to the General Court for choosing Fairfield rather than Pequonnock was that some of their cattle had been lost in New Haven. How they were “lost” is not explained but at any rate one can easily picture these first people arriving with some livestock. Their immediate concern according to the records was that of fences and their placement and care—protection for their few remaining animals. The duties of the fence viewers were clearly defined and reinforced regularly. Every attention possible was afforded their animals. Ground called The Common was set aside for the Town’s livestock and nothing was spared to assure their well being.

<sup>1</sup> William Wheeler in his Journal tells us of the living creatures the early people found in 1639.

Land was cheap and produced large crops. Labor was cheap — there were many Indians who would work for small wages. In those golden times there was plenty of games — ducks of which there were twenty species of black ducks and broad-bills, hundreds if not thousands in a flock, which were very tame — wild geese very fat in large numbers but more shy. Pigeons in Autumn so wonderfully plenty that forty dozen have been caught in a net in one morning at one sport. Black Rock beach was the place to take them, where the pigeon houses were situated at short distances apart. Pigeons flew so thick one year that at noon, it is said, the sun could not be seen for two hours — prodigious numbers were seen — being brought forth abundantly ‘various kinds of fish — shad in prodigious quantities, but bass were the fish they caught most plentifully, taking in at as heavy as twenty-eight pounds. Clams, oysters and scallops more than could be eaten’. Eels and smelt swarmed in the waters. White-fish were upon the lands. Beside these, lobsters, crabs, mussels and other inferior shell-fish were found in great quantities. The fresh water stream afforded trout, lamper-eels and turtles of considerable size. Occasionally whales made their appearance in the Sound; and the porpoise was a frequent spectacle, measuring his length in the air and then disappearing beneath the waters.

The Townsmen ordered the Fence Viewers to attend to the Common fences and act accordingly when “whoever shall leave down the bars in said fence shall be liable to a fine, according to the penalty of leaving open any gate pertaining to the fields”. Each one of the settlers had a responsibility from the outset. The individual had a responsibility to the entire group and the group to the individual with regard to the animals.

Of the available records, at the very second Town Meeting—February 12, 1661, it was noted that “the Towne orders that all the Common Fields in the Towne shall be hained<sup>1</sup> of cattle at the middle of March next” and John Hoit was chosen Pounder for that year (he was also a Fence Viewer). On May 7, of the following year Edward Adams was chosen Pounder and for “turning the key” of the Pound each time he was to have “a penny for every parcel of creatures brought to the Pound”. The same year a fine of 15 shillings per head was levied on “cattle or hogs put into those fields that the Towne hath granted to several persons for a certain time and then be laid down to Common . . .” and if they transgressed before such fields were ready they had to pay 15 shillings 6 pence per head as a fine.

On March 11, 1663 the minutes show “The Towne orders that the fields shall be hained of all sorts of cattle by tomorrow seven at night and all fences are to be made up about the fields at the same time”. This meant that the fields were to be enclosed for pasture and set apart for grass—a replenishing process as it were.

The next month, the sheepmasters were appointed for the summer months and it was voted “to mend the Pound sufficiently for the summer ensuing upon the Towne charges—Henry Lyon has power to call upon any of the inhabitants to work on the premises—they having a day’s warn-

<sup>1</sup> This meant that the cattle were to refrain from using the Common by that day.



ing shall forfeit to the Towne Treasury 2 shillings six pence for such default". There was no excuse for being absent!

About that same time, wolves were bothering the domestic animals and it was noted that if a person expected to be paid for killing a wolf, he must take the dead wolf's head to the Town Treasurer. He would then receive the 30 shillings to be paid for every grown wolf killed. Bears were also annoying the sheep and cattle, and as an extra inducement to hunt them, it was voted "Whoever kills a bear within ye bounds of ye towne between this and ye next town meeting shall have him paid ye out of ye Towne Treasury 50 shillings a piece for each old bear and for each cub 20 shillings". One shilling bounty was offered on foxes too. They were doing their best to protect their holdings. Soon Thomas Oliver was given permission to build a bridge over Uncoway River at his own expense and the Towne would put up gates or bars to prevent damage by cattle.

In 1669 the towne ordered that "all Common fields in the towne are to be hained of all sorts of cattle. The second day next such as have hay in the fields have liberty to spend it on their cattle while the snow covers the ground without disturbance".

In December 1670 the townsmen were empowered "to grant distress upon such as do not pay the cowkeepers their several dues for cow-keeping". The cowkeeper looked after the misdemeanors of the cattle. They strayed, they broke fences, they injured property and these things had to be adjusted. Later that same year "the cattle found in the common field after sunset and before the sun be an hour high in the morning without a sufficient keeper with them, the owners of the cattle shall pay for every such brought to those shall impound them two shillings and six pence a head, except the owners of the cattle shall purge themselves by an oath that they nor any of their family did put or leave such cattle in the field to the best of their knowledge".

All dogs that killed or worried sheep were ordered killed. In February 1670 the Town Meeting ordered "Whereas there is complaint that the dogs of some of the inhabitants of the town have worried and killed several sheep and some of the owners of the dogs refuse to kill the dogs; for the prevention of damage, the town orders that if any dogs of any inhabitants of the town have killed or worried sheep, or have been

in company with dogs when such mischief was done, or shall be so in future time, the owner having notice thereof shall kill such dog or dogs; and if he shall refuse or neglect to kill such dog or dogs, what sheep for the future shall be so killed or worried while the said dog or dogs live in town, the owner of such dog or dogs shall pay all such damages as the proprietors of the sheep shall sustain unto them, except the owners of the dog or dogs shall make it what and whose dog or dogs else did the mischief".

In 1671 Sergeant Banks and Sergeant Squire were chosen sheepmasters for the year ensuing. The next year they were chosen again, and out of the sheep Treasury were allowed "16 shillings for keeping the accounts". The sheepmasters were given full power to hire shepherds and "to order the circuit of the several flocks walk in the Common and whatever is necessary for the welfare of the flocks".

In 1672 Richard Osborn and Edward Wilson were chosen pounders for the year and the Town by vote ordered them to be sworn in. The Oath which they took as Pounders is included at this point.

#### THE POUNDER'S OATH

You A . . . B . . . being sworn Pounders for the Towne of Fairfield for the year ensuing and until new be chosen and sworn into your work do either of you for yourselves swear by the great and dreadful name of the everliving God that you will faithfully perform and execute the office you are chosen to without partiality to any man and to spend so much time in the executing your above said worke as you shall judge necessary for the preservation of the fruits of the Common fields so help you God in our Lord Jesus Christ, Richard Osborn and Edward Wilson have this 4th of May 1672 taken oath of pounders for ye town of Fairfield sworn before me:  
Nathan Gold, Recorder.

The following year they voted to buy a lock for the Pound and the "cattle found in the Common Fields not under sufficient inclosure during the time the fields are to be hained from all sorts of cattle shall be poundable if they are about four in number . . . ". The pounder by virtue of his position was to seize stray animals which wandered up and down the highways or stole into forbidden meadows of the parish. It was ordered that "when there hath been notice given to make up defective fences, the pounders shall make it their care to impound all the swine that shall be found in the common fields and meadows. They are to begin to pound the swine two days after men have notice of the defective fences". That was ordered in October 1669. Ani-



imals were not to stay in the Pound too long for on December 25, 1673 it was voted "The Towne orders that those that have creatures and do not fetch them out—that the owners who do not fetch out the creatures within 12 hours after notice they are not only to have double poundage but all other just charges in the prosecution the said are at about the said impounded creatures". Also on October 22, 1673

It is ordered that for the future that what cattle be found in the Common fields not under sufficient inclosure during the time the fields are to be hained from all sorts of cattle shall be poundable if they are above 4 in number, their poundage shall be 4d per head and if there be but four in number or under they shall be 6d per head; And for every working horse or mare shall be found in the common fields during the time they are to be hained either with or without shackles shall be liable to be pounded under the penalty of 2s 6d per head if they be found in the field between sun rising and sun setting and if they be found in the said fields between sun setting and the next sun rising they shall be poundable under the penalty of 5s per head: only there is liberty to tedder working horse or horse and mare or mares in the said fields provided it be upon the proprietors of the creatures own land or in the common with a sufficient tedder.

The Towne prohibits for the future that no cattle shall be kept in the Common fields whether working cattle, but upon the proprietors of the cattles own land under the penalty of two pence per head for such cattle so kept, farmers of any lands in the Common fields have the full privilege of the land concerning baiting on the lands they possess: Unruly cattle if they be found in the fields, damage present during the time the fields are hained of cattle, the proprietors of the cattle shall pay double poundage and upon complaint these Townsmen are to decide who are unruly cattle.

There was much spare land available but little of it had been cleared and was suitable for grazing so it was most important to care for the open land with determination. Cleared land was truly an early luxury. Pasture land for the animals was of real value and it was often used as a payment for a service such as "Thomas Bennett hath undertaken to beat the drum for the meetings for the year ensuing and he is to have for his satisfaction the pasture of the Burying Hill for the year ensuing and five shillings". In 1667 Samuel Morehouse and the rest of the farmers eastward were granted liberty "to erect a stable 20 feet square or 9 feet broad and 40 feet long at such convenient place about the Green as Sergeant Squire and Francis Bradley shall appoint and lay out". The land was granted for such use as long as the Town saw fit to permit it.

Animals seemed to take precedence over many other concerns of these first extremely difficult days.

A good bit of information is available about the initial product of Fairfield—wool. Sheep were many and the money accumulated from their being was a great concern. The sheep funds must have been a rather sizeable treasury for one finds that not only were the sheepmasters paid from the Sheep Treasury but "a building for publicke convenience" was to be paid for from this and the sheepmasters were ordered "to collect such dues as is due the Sheep Treasury from any debtor". They apparently did a good job for not only were they elected again the next year but they were also empowered to hire shepherds for the flocks for the year ensuing. Thomas Wilson got 40 shillings as sheepmaster and Sergeant Squire 20 shillings for his services as a Sheepmaster. A short time later Thomas Wilson was given 3 pounds for his services. He was also allowed to "let the sheep for one third in wheat—the other two thirds in provision pay—oats excepted". Staples once again taking the place of money. We find too that money due from all those persons that bought the stray horses that the Towne had interest in was added to the Treasury. The Pounders were to take 4 pence per head for the swine and cattle impounded.

Debts that were due the Towne upon the sheep and horse account were to be collected and the law was empowered to levy said debts. Lieut. John Banks was appointed as the Town's Attorney to prosecute the law "to full effect that the debts due to the Towne may be satisfied".

As the various sections of town started to seek their independence from the Old Prime Society the first inkling that one gets from the Town votes of this desired freedom in every case was from their request for a Pound. That desire could be noted even before a Church was sought. "The Towne grants to Maxumux farmers liberty for the summer ensuing to erect a pound to restrain such creatures as shall be put into it that are damaging. John Andrews is appointed pounder. He is to take one half of the legal poundage. It is noted that it is such cattle that are poundable that are doing damage on the farmers' lands on the west side of Sasco River". The fees were clarified further in 1681. Pounders were to take for poundage only the half what the County allows, except it be a single horse or mare which shall be 12 pence apiece and sheep



under 20 shall be one penny per head. The shepherds were to receive "towards their wages  $\frac{1}{3}$  in wheat". Animals had to be carefully marked. The keeper of the Brand Book was ordered "to enter such horse kind marked in the Brand Book according to the true intent of ye said order that all horses kind above two years old taken up unmarked that have no owners appearing shall be laid at the next Towne meeting". All horses had to be branded in public. Further "if any person take up, or brand mark any horse contrary to this order, he shall pay for the first offense five pounds to the treasury, or to be whipped ten lashes on the naked body; for the second offense he shall pay ten pounds or be whipped twenty lashes; for the third offense he shall be committed to the house of correction and there be kept at hard labor and with coarse diet for 6 months and be whipped once a quarter severely, or pay a fine of twenty pounds". Everyone valued the Pound and when it was to be replaced, they spelled out very carefully how it was to be built. At one time it was directed that "sufficient pound to be made of samen planks, with sufficient posts speedily as maybe and in the interim to cause the present pound to be repaired".

Rules were few but rigid with regard to the domestic animals for example: Racing one's animals was not permitted. It was voted in 1683 that "the town votes that whoever for the future shall run a race or races or run his horse or mare with full speed except in he upon extraordinary occasion in any of the towne streets within the bounds of Fairfield, each delinquent shall pay a fine of ten shillings to be paid  $\frac{1}{2}$  to the Towne Treasury and the other  $\frac{1}{2}$  to the Informer that prosecutes his action to effect." In 1677 it was voted

to repair ye old horse pound at Saugatuck so as to hold what horses they can get in and what horse kind that are strays they or any of them catch there they are to bring them to the Town of Fairfield to Sergeant Squire, Town Treasurer to be sold after ye usual manner at an outcry at ye beat of ye drum and they are to have what they can catch that are strays for themselves ye first week which week is to begin this day in ye warning also they are to have ye benefit of said Pound ye first seven days of October which satisfaction to them for their repairing said Pound and what they shall catch beside that fortnight the town is to have one half and themselves ye other of what they do produce being sold as above.

Group responsibility shows again and again throughout the records. "Whosoever of ye In-

habitants of Fairfield . . . hath at anytime sheep and shall withhold them from ye flock when demanded by ye sheepmaster or shall draw them without leave unless it be to kill or sell them, they shall have no benefit in or be deemed to have any right to ye sheep dung". It was also decided that there were too few rams for the flock and six bulls at 20 shillings each were ordered to be secured for the town. Later it was ordered that "if any Ram or Rams shall through the owner's negligence get into his neighbors enclosure amongst his sheep between the first day of Sept. and the 1st day of November next the owner of such enclosure and sheep has liberty to cut or gueld such ram or sheep". It was also noted that the minister would have £30 paid to him out of the sheep treasury for the year past. The Schoolmaster was given £35 for each of two years, paid yearly out of the sheep treasury. About that time a mortal distemper developed among the horses and it was voted that the dead beasts were to be burned.

In 1698 to preserve deer and their young, an act was passed, that if anyone between the 15th of January and the 15th of July killed a buck, doe or fawn he would forfeit 20 shillings for the first offense, 40 shillings for the second, and £3 for the third. In the event they were not able to pay the fine, the guilty one was to work as many days as shillings covered his fine. The deputies of the town informed the remaining Indians in Fairfield to restrain them from breaking this act.

No tame geese were allowed on the Commons at that time. If they were found there, they were impounded at one penny per head and notice was given to

ye owners as soon as may be (if known) and if ye owners thereof is not known then one of ye Constables of said town to set up a cry on ye sign post in ye Parish in which said geese are taken from their artificial mark; if no owner appear within three days after so posted ye said Constable shall sell ye said geese at an outcry (auction) at said Sign Post viz: so many thereof as we answer ye poundage and damage and charges to be paid out of ye money the said geese shall sell for. And it is further voted and agreed that when any geese are taken, damage fees out as afore said it shall be as sufficient as any pound one for him or them that shall take said geese to put them into his own yard or any secure place. All swine may go without yokes and rings. 4d paid if pounded one penny whereof to John Bulkley who shall keep the pound key.

Common fields generally were open for crea-



tures except for swine and sheep. Later no cows were to be halted on the Common. At times the Commons were open to swine if they had rings in their noses.

The East farmers were allowed their own Pound and they were also granted feed for their flocks of sheep over Uncoway River to Chair Brook. It was also ordered that the sheep of Pequonnock farms not to be in the town flock. John Osborn who was going to Boston, was asked to purchase "twenty bells to hang on ye flock of sheep and he shall be paid out of ye sheep treasury".

In 1699 the Town Meeting was adjourned because so many were busy shearing sheep. The hill at Indian Neck was hired from the Indians for "ye keeping of ye rams at as cheap a rate as possible".

Captain Robert Farney was chosen Brander for Fairfield. A later entry showed that all horses had been duly branded. Some of the Earmarks and Brands which were registered:

- (1) Gershom Hubbell ear marks a half slit under each ear. Recorded June 18, 1755 P. D. Burr Registrar.
- (2) Nathan Adams Jun. His ear marke is as followeth viz—a half penny on ye fore side the near ear and an half penny on ye underside ye off ear. Recorded on ye 24th day of November 1716.
- (3) John Bradley son of John Bradley late of Fairfield deceased his ear mark for his creatures is as followeth viz two halfe penny ye fore side ye off ear. Recorded February 8d: day Anno Domini 1716/7.
- (4) Samuel Cooke his ear marke is an halfe crop on the upper side the near ear a slit in the off ear and a half penny on the under side the same ear. Recorded March 30, 1717.
- (5) Benj. Treadwell his Ear Mark is a halfe slit on ye fore side of each Ear. Recorded May 30th 1718.
- (6) Joseph Perry son of Joseph Perry his Ear mark for creatures is as followeth: two halfe pennys the under side the near ear recorded November 8th 1720.
- (7) Samuel Rowland his Ear Mark is as followeth viz is a crop on the near ear and a slit down the off ear. Recorded 19 Mar. 1711/12.
- (8) Moses Dimon Junr. his ear mark for his creatures is as followeth viz: two slits down the off ear and half penny the fore side the same ear recorded June 10, 1713.
- (9) Joseph Gruman his ear marke is as followeth viz: two slits down lengthways of each ear. Recorded Janry 25, 1713/14.
- (10) Jabez Daviss, son of Samll Daviss his ear mark for his horses and sheep is a halfe penny the under side the off ear and for cattle and hogs two halfe pennys ye under side the near ear and a halfe penny the fore side the off ear. Recorded Janry 25, 1713/14.
- (11) Caleb Fairchild his ear mark for his creature is as followeth a halfe slit under the near ear a halfe penny the fore side of each ear and a nick the under side the off ear. Recorded Mar. 13, 1715/16.
- (12) William Hill, son of Mr. Eliphalet Hill his ear

mark is as followeth a half slit the under side the off ear and a nick the fore side the same ear. Recorded Aug. 19, 1717.- (13) David Down, his ear mark for his creatures half slit under the near ear and a hole in the off ear. Recorded March 5, 1721 etc. etc.
- (14) Mr. Samll Osborn's ear mark for his creatures is a slip on ye fore side of each ear: Recorded Janry ye 27th, 1725/26, E. Wakeman Registrar.
- (15) Aaron Burr his ear mark for his creatures is two slits down ye near ear. Recorded March 26, 1730 Thad. Burr Registrar.
- (16) Edward Webber his ear mark for his creatures is a swallow fork on ye top of both ears and a half penny ye fore side ye off ear and a half penny under ye near ear. Recorded March ye 13th 1730/31 Pr me T. Burr Regist.
- (17) Mary Burr, her ear mark for her creatures is two slits down ye near ear and a half penny under ye off. Recorded Decemb'r 29th 1733 per Thad. Burr Registrar.
- (18) John Sherwood, his ear mark for his creatures is a half penny under ye near ear and two half pennies under ye off ear. Recorded Decemb'r 6, 1733 T. Burr Registrar.

Straggling sheep with their natural and artificial marks had to be entered on the Town Records. The Maxumux farmers were granted liberty to erect a Pound. Greenfield requested that they have their own Pound and Redding was allowed to establish a Pound at their own charge and Ephrim Sanford was chosen key keeper. Later when he died his widow Elizabeth became the key keeper. Stratfield Parish was given liberty to build a Pound in 1744. In 1784 Thankful Platt, Joseph Hill Jr., Nathaniel Seeley, Benjamin Dean, Hezakiah Bradley, Daniel Wilson, Ebenezer Ogden, Stephen Godfrey, Abigail Sturges were chosen key keepers. Finally more than one Pound was needed in each society and two new ones were planned with the Old Society—"one at Bridge Hill and one on the open land opposite Solomon Sturges on ye Mill Plaine". Solomon Sturges was chosen to be the key keeper of the latter and Peter Morehouse key keeper of "ye pound at ye East end of ye Prime Society also voted that Samuel Gray be key keeper of ye pound he built at Compo and Benjamin Wyncoop be the key keeper of ye pound he has built near his dwelling house". It was also voted that Widow Elizabeth Couch be the key keeper of the pound her husband built and Hezakiah Bradley the key keeper of the Pound at Greenfield and John Gilbert key keeper of the pound near his house. The Society of Norfield was given liberty to erect a Pound at their own costs and Daniel Dunkins was to be the key keeper when it was built. Individuals were given permission to build Pounds near their homes. In 1794 it was "voted that Jason Gould have liberty to build a pound at his expense only and to erect said pound on



Buddington's Hill so called viz: the Hill a few rods east of Gould's Bridge and without expense to the Town".

Two advertisements again show the value placed on the animals at that time.

Connecticut Journal—printed in New Haven

Broke into the enclosure of the subscriber a Red Steer with a white face, about three years old without mark or Brand. The owner is desired to prove property, pay charges and take him away.

Samuel Pearsall  
August 5th, 1783

Green's Farms

Taken up in Norfield, on the 19th of June last, a bright farrel mare about 14 hands high, a flip to her face, her white fore foot a little white and her left hind leg white up to her gambrel, branded FB on the right shoulder, trots and paces. The owner may have her by proving property, paying charges and applying to Stephen Hurlburt.

at Norfield in Fairfield—August 3, 1779.

The notice below appeared on one of the Town sign posts in 1776 and shows again the importance laid on the animals and their care.

Fairfield 17 Oct. 1776

We the subscribers have appraised the damage the sheep hath done in Timothy Wakeman's wheat to be nine shillings lawful money.

Luther Gould  
Ephram Nichols

By 1800 the main product of wool had given way to flax and as the Town became more and more organized, the activities of the animals of the people were not listed as carefully or in as detailed a fashion. Pound keepers were chosen each year however and continued to be numerous. As the town became more populous new problems appeared on the horizon and new discussion topics evolved. Pound Keepers elected in 1837 were James Hopkins, Abel Hubbell, Thomas Bartram, James Knapp, James B. Wilson, George Wheeler, George Ogden, John Wilson, N. B. Alvord, Eli Couch, Abraham Banks, John Banks, William Banks, Horace Ogden. Their responsibilities were:

To: Hezh Ogden Junr., Greenfield

The following is a part of the present Law relating to the Right of impounding creatures—the duty of the impounder and keykeeper—Fees etc.—viz:

Every person shall have right to impound horses, cattle, sheep, swine etc. found doing damage on his or her land—providing sd land is inclosed by a sufficient and lawful fence—and when any person shall have impounded any creatures he shall give notice to the owner if he be known, within twenty-four hours, and on neglect thereof he shall forfeit the sum of 20 cts. per head for every beast so by him impounded and the same sum for every day

after the first day that he shall neglect to give notice as aforesaid—to the use of the owner thereof—who shall recover the same by Law and shall also pay all necessary expenses to the Poundkeeper for providing food and water for such beasts so impounded—If the owner be not known, the impounder shall forthwith after impounding sd creatures, inform one of the Constables of the Town thereof—who will proceed with sd creatures as the Law directs—It is the duty of the Poundkeeper to receive and keep until lawfully redeemed all creatures lawfully brought to Pound, and to provide for them necessary food and water while in Pound—for which he shall be allowed for horses, cattle and swine each 12 cents per day and 3 cents per day for each sheep. The fees for the poundage for horses, cattle and swine is 12 cents each and 2 cents each for sheep—and the owner or owners of any beasts impounded shall not redeem or replevy the same out of the Pound until he, she or they have paid to the Pound Keeper his poundage fees and the lawful expense for providing food and water for such creatures while in Pound etc. etc.

AD 1836

In 1880 different kinds of wild animals had become troublesome and it was voted "A motion was made by A. P. Wakeman that a bounty of 50¢ per head be paid by the selectmen for the killing of skunks, woodchucks, weasels and raccoons". This motion was laid on the table however.

It was said that "Connecticut salt pork is the best of America, they finish the fattening of their hogs with Indian Meal".

In 1884 the Fairfield Advertiser reported "Wild Goose shooting on the Sound rare sport and plenty of it. Wild Geese fly to the Southward the middle of Sept. and return middle of March. A wild goose may yield a half a lb. of feathers", and "H. A. Lyman, W. Malland and R. L. Shepherd bagged 12 quail, 3 woodcocks and 3 rabbits last Saturday". Oct. 15, 1885 Fairfield Advertiser.

Mrs. Lottie Burr told me an interesting story about a cow which was pastured by his owner along the road. One of the neighbors had reseeded his lawn and the cow chose that particular spot to romp across and eat new grass in the very center. The owner of the new lawn took the creature to the Pound. The owner of the cow had to pay a \$1.00 to retrieve it. This seemed to bother the animal owner little for in no time, the cow was foraging again the road's edges and the neighbors' lawns. This of course bothered the community and they were not to be bested. One unnamed neighbor placed a sign on the cows horns for all to see which read "If you don't keep your cow home, we'll put it in the Pound again".



The last time one finds a complete list of Pound Keepers in the Town Records is for the year 1901. This of course is what one would expect for Fairfield's role as an agrarian community was beginning to show signs of change at this point.

Pound Keepers chosen on Dec. 7, 1900 and their districts were:

John Hawkins	Southport
John B. Wakeman	Hulls Farms
William Burr	Middle District
Francis B. Perry	Mill Plain District
Lloyd N. Sherwood	Greenfield Hill District

B. Wesley Burr	Banks North District
Hezekiah B. Ogden	Banks South District
Levi Jennings	Fairfield Woods District
Everett B. Sherwood	Hoydens Hill District
Charles M. French	Holland Hill District
Bradley B. Meeker	Plattsville District
Edgar S. Wilson	Stratfield District
William Meeker	Bulkley's District
William H. Burr	Deerfield District
William C. Bulkley	Burr's District

In 1904 J. A. Hickok was the only Pound Keeper listed. Thus once again Fairfield moved on into a new mode.



## CHAPTER 16

### CHRISTMAS IN FAIRFIELD - AND OTHER HOLIDAYS

Christmas in Connecticut, as in other parts of the New World, came quite late. In 1659 laws were established by the Pilgrims forbidding any celebration of Christmas whatsoever and it was 1681 before the law was repealed.

In 1749 here in Fairfield, a Town Meeting was held at 3:00 p.m. on Christmas Day. Undoubtedly there was little celebration that day. I also found where a Church Meeting was held on December 25, 1815:

Christmas Day Society Meeting at Fairfield—purchased a slip for Walter Thorp No. 31—cost 4 dollars—an attempt was made to raise the salary of the Reverend W. Humphreys and failed by an adjournment for three weeks for consideration. 3% Tax laid. (A *slip* is a pew.)

On Christmas Day 1813, Mr. Hull Sherwood made the following entry in his diary:

Christmas, clear and cold. Today I attended the Court between Alfred Perry and Levy Jennings concerning the taking of Toll. The judgment is not yet given.

Even in 1800 business went on pretty much as usual on December 25th except that the Churches did take precedence for the season.

Christmas Eve was mainly a Church time and the "dressing" of the Church was the way of celebration.

Mr. Hull Sherwood made these entries:

For December 21, 1812—clear and cold. This day I spent in adorning the Church with greens.

December 22, 1812—clear in the morning after a light snow in the night of 2 inches deep and warmer. Today, I and others went to Fairfield Woods after some hemlock brush for to adorn God's Church.

December 23, 1812—Cloudy in the morning and likely to snow, but very pleasant in the P.M. In the A.M. I threshed some and in the P.M. I went again to help dress the Church and in the evening there was a dance at Wilson Nichols and in attempting to attend it from Walter's, the girls took charge of Mr. Darrow's carriage and as luck and chance would have it, none of them got hurt much that was in the carriage, although the horse blundered and put

them in the greatest fright and picked Abby under his heels and in attempting to save them, Darrow got wounded in his lip and went not to the dance.

December 24, 1812—In the fore part of the day some snow squalls and in the P.M. clear and pleasant. I went down to Church in the P.M. and in the evening we had it luminated with 21 lights to a window besides being beautifully dressed in green. The Text was 2nd Chapt 10th V. I am now troubled with the tooth ache—but coming home and finding some young company the pain ceased.

December 25, 1812—Christmas—clear and pretty cold. We all went to Church today as well as last night. The Text was in Isa. 9th. Chap. 2nd. V. I dined at my sister's with the Priest and others. In the evening I went to Greenfield to a ball at Mr. Bradley's and fell from my horse coming home.

Again in Hull Sherwood's diary we find for

December 24, 1813—cold—I carried a load of wood from Smedley's Lot to Grandmother. In the evening I went to Bridgeport Church, it being dressed not very elegantly, neither were the windows illuminated. On our return, took supper at Mr. Joseph Bulkley's. Hubby traveling.

One can easily sense a note of genuine disappointment in Mr. Sherwood in finding that special effort had not been made to make the Church more beautiful for this lovely season of the year.

Contrast this last thought with the personal pride expressed in his 1814 diary entries for:

December 23—In the P.M. I help dress the Church in greens of various kinds—much taste is displayed in what we have already done particularly by the ladies around the pulpit and tomorrow I expect to bring it to the completion of perfection.

December 24—today I collect some candles and complete the dress of the Church. In the evening we illuminate it with 10 candles to a window and 12 upon the rail of the altar and one on every pew's corner and there was a numerous congregation assembled. Mr. Shelton's discourse from St. Luke 2 Chap. 15th . . . .

December 25—In the evening we have a dance at Daniel P. Burr's. The company is small and we dance until 2 in the morning, my lady accompanies me in the dance until 11:00 o'clock. Dancing is not quite out of fashion, and is practiced but seldom by any and the majority have entirely abandoned it.



Mill Plain formerly produced a company possessed of the same spirit in this mode of recreation but the present set which have come after them are reversed . . . .

And again in 1815:

December 24—The Church is adorned with hanging of box and pine neatly suspended with simplicity and taste and the house is not only illuminated externally but glitters with heavenly light of a new born Saviour.

December 25—Christmas dinner—roasted and boiled turkeys, pies of chickens, pudding and pies of vegetable kind, pumpkin and mince and tarts.

Jonathan Bulkley mentioned that on December 24, 1845

The Church was dressed as usual on the Eves of Christmas.

Another report showed:

December 23, 1810—went to Episcopal Church in Fairfield and found it part dressed for Christmas.

For Christmas Day, 1811, William Wheeler simply mentioned:

Cold Christmas.

and on December 25, 1818:

A Green Christmas.

meaning no snow covered the ground.

The Christmas Tree too came quite late to the United States. The 19th Century had passed the half way mark before we find any mention of this much looked forward to part of our Christmas today. From then on it gained a larger and larger place over the years. At first there was just one for the entire town.

The Southport Chronicle for December 21, 1870 carried the following story:

December 21, 1870—Southport Chronicle

A splendid "Christmas Tree" for the children of Fairfield, will be held at the Town House on Monday evening 25th inst.

This "Tree" will be on exhibition we hear during the day on Monday and none of our citizens should fail to see it. It will be of very large proportions, magnificently decorated and loaded with presents. The children of Fairfield should ever be grateful to Mr. Mott and his friends for this generous provision for their entertainment.

That was on the Town Green. One wonders if it might have been the same tree which stands today.

The following week the Chronicle (December 28, 1870) carried several Christmas items of interest.

The Southport Chronicle, Wednesday, Dec. 28, 1870

### CHRISTMAS EVE

Mr. Nehemiah Jennings celebrated "Christmas Eve" by a most gorgeously brilliant illumination of his Market.

The market, which is always kept scrupulously neat, was on this occasion gaily decked with evergreens, while the tempting meat was adorned with many colored rosettes, presenting altogether a marvelously attractive appearance. But it was not all "show", for the beef deserved to be honored with an extraordinary adornment. Such tender, juicy steaks we have never before eaten. They were splendid. Mr. Jennings is entitled to great credit for the efforts he makes to please his customers. Long may he wave.

### CHRISTMAS IN FAIRFIELD

The ancient, beautiful arrangement, so admirably sustained in our own day, of making Christmas commemorate the wonderful scheme of man's redemption, as well as an occasion of conviviality, has by the universal approval of the world, made this festival the grandest and most delightful of holidays.

The festivities which have so agreeably interrupted the usual stillness of Fairfield, have been unusually inspiring and mirthful. Extending through Saturday night, the Sabbath, and Monday; we have had Christmas Eve—the occasion for gathering together family connections around the paternal fireside, that rallying place of our dearest affections; Sunday with its hallowed memories, and sacred rites; Monday with its abandonment to good fellowship, and hilarious mirth.

At least in one good old town, no effect of modern refinement appears to mar this hearty old holiday. It threw open every door and unlocked every heart, bringing the high and low, the rich and poor together, in one warm congregation of joy and kindness.

The decorations of St. Paul's Church were immensely rich and tasteful this year. Heavy wreaths of brightest laurel suspended from the center of the roof, draped gracefully to the end of each gable, forming a canopy of richest green beneath which, in every niche and window seat, were placed appropriate emblems of laurel and myrtle. On the walls were displayed, significant mottoes and Scriptural designs. Over the chancel hung a heavy chain of evergreens, under which, seemingly resting in mid-air, was a large star of glittering white. The baptismal fount held a magnificent bouquet of choice exotics, and a beautiful cross of white carnations adorned the lectern. The music was especially fine, and as the choir and organ pealed forth the Christmas anthems, the entire edifice seemed to glow with triumphant harmony.

The Christmas Tree at the Town House, under the guardianship of the "Unquowa Club", sparkled with all the gems which good old Santa Claus has intended to delight his children with. It was vastly admired throughout the morning, and its glittering verdure transferred to the juveniles in the afternoon—nor was this all. Upwards of three hundred and fifty



children received in addition an appropriate present. This bountiful profusion of gifts was the result of a liberal donation of time, labor and money, expended by the executive committee of the club, aided by the contributions of many of our worthy townspeople. Surely, they were amply repaid by a sight of the glowing faces, and grateful emotions of our little people.

The festival concluded with a jolly old fashioned dance in the Town Hall, where good performers "discoursed most eloquent music", to which tripped nimble feet until the "wee sma' hours", when the large and happy gathering dispersed quietly to their homes, nothing having occurred to mar the harmony of the grandest, merriest Christmas ever celebrated in Fairfield.

SCRATCHER

### CHRISTMAS

The grand happy festival of CHRISTMAS was duly celebrated in this town. On Sunday (Christmas day), services appropriate to the occasion were held in all the churches. Special provision was made for the enjoyment of the children. As has been well said, Christmas is most emphatically a children's festival, and right joyfully did the children celebrate it this year.

On Saturday evening a "Christmas Tree" was "Celebrated" in the Southport Congregational Church. The pastor, Rev. Mr. Hill, conducted the exercises. The preliminary services were very pleasing, but the children were of course more especially delighted with the distribution of the presents. Mr. Hill conducted the presentation of the gifts in a very happy manner. The sparkling eyes of the little ones showed how delighted they were as there were handed out to them one after another, Sleds, Skates, large Tool Chests, Tivoli Boards, Games, Puzzles, Fashionably-dressed French dolls; with books, such as the Library of Wonders, (of which there are 20 volumes), Lange's Commentaries and other valuable works for the older scholars.

On Monday afternoon a Christmas Tree entertainment on a grand scale, was held in the Town Hall. All the churches of Fairfield Center united in this celebration. The tree was very large and was completely loaded down with presents. The large upper hall of the Town House was filled with expectant, happy children. We did not have an opportunity of examining closely the presents, but from the character of the management of the entertainment, we are sure they were excellent.

No one can object to putting the Town House to such a good use as this. The conception of this plan of celebrating Christmas was admirable, and admirably was it carried out.

On the evening of Monday there were Christmas Trees in the Southport Methodist Church, and in Trinity Church. Of the former we can only speak from hearsay, but we are informed that it was thoroughly enjoyed by all present. The presents were elegant and substantial. When our Methodist friends do go in for anything of this kind, they do it right heartily and are sure to carry it out successfully.

Trinity Church was very elaborately dressed. The services connected with the Christmas Tree commenced at 7 o'clock. The preliminary exercises were of interest, especially the singing and recitations of the children. The attention of a person entering the church was first attracted by the curtain which had been erected to screen the Tree from the impatient gaze of the children. At a given signal, the Tree became, as if by enchantment, a blaze of light, the lamps in the body of the church were almost instantaneously extinguished, and the curtain was lowered amid the breathless but excited attention of the little ones. They might readily have imagined themselves suddenly transferred from a church into fairyland.

The spectacular arrangement was very effective. The Rector, Rev. Mr. Wells, conducted the exercises in his usually impressive manner. In behalf of his church and Sunday school he wished to all the Sunday school children in the town, to whatever denomination belonging, a happy "Merry Christmas." The Rector was very felicitous in all his remarks.

Of the presents on the Tree we cannot speak "ex cathedra", but, so far as we could see they were admirably adapted to give pleasure to the recipients.

Altogether, Christmas has never been more joyfully celebrated in this town than it was this year.

There were other Christmas Trees in town, at which exuberant joy was manifested, and watches, &c. distributed, but these were "private" joys with which we cannot intermeddle.

The Greenfield Hill Church like the others observed Christmas with special "dressings" for the Church. A schedule was carefully followed and everyone looked forward to gathering greens and meeting night after night to tie them. On the Sunday before Christmas, a large group would go into the woods to get the ground pine. Bags and bags of those greens were gathered and then the folks would meet for several nights to make wreaths and yards and yards of garlands. It was a cold job for often the greens were still full of ice and snow and it was necessary to shake each piece before it could be tied. No one ever minded the cold fingers for there was always much sociability during the evening and refreshments concluded the night's task. This was not only fun but good fellowship. The entire Church would be arrayed—long ropes of greens over the windows—banks of greens around the pulpit and an evergreen tree to one side.

Some years later, a "Christmas Tree" gained in prominence everywhere and each year a few nights before December 25, a new celebration became part of the Christmas season. The entire family would go to Church together for this event and a program of carol singing and Christmas recitations carefully learned and meticu-



lously spoken highlighted the evening. At the close of the evening there were gifts of perhaps an orange, a camel cookie or a small box of sweets for every youngster in the community.

The "Tree" became more a part of the decorations of the Church and candles were placed upon it. Everyone watched breathlessly in fear of fire but it was indeed a sight to behold as little eyes and adult eyes, too, reflected the joys of the Birthday of the King.

One night at Hope Chapel, the tree did become ignited by the candles but preparedness and quick thinking averted any damage.

Frank L. Sherwood recorded in his diary on December 26, 1883:

Went to Flat Rock Church (Easton) in the evening to a Christmas Tree . . . good sleighing and a beautiful day.

Activities still centered around the Churches but the Christmas season had become also a time of visiting and frolic. On December 25, 1872 Frank Sherwood wrote:

Went to Sherwood Banks to an Oyster Supper.

On December 25, 1889:

Went to a genuine Christmas supper at Jennings. and on December 24, 1885:

Went to Easton Centre (Church) in the evening to a concert.

More gaiety was establishing itself during the Christmas season.

These advertisements, taken from the Chronicle, show that more "things" were being made available to embellish the Christmas festivities:

The Southport Chronicle—December 15, 1868  
A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL !!

GRAND OPENING  
— of —  
TOYS AND HOLIDAY GOODS  
— at —  
Jenning's Drug Store,  
Wednesday, December 18th

Consisting of Wooden and Tin Toys of every description, Presentation Books for Old and Young, Albums, Fancy Stationery, Diaries, Pass Books, Fine Perfumes and Hair Oils; a choice assortment of French and American Soaps, Toilet Boxes, Brushes, Combs, Wallets, Work Boxes, Games of Cards, Toilet Sets of elegant patterns, &c, &c.

The Southport Chronicle, Wednesday, Dec. 28, 1870  
LOOK !      LOOK !!      LOOK !!!  
CHRISTMAS GOODS  
AT  
JENNING'S DRUG STORE

Wooden Toys, Paper Toys, Tin Toys, Iron Toys, Glass Toys, China Toys, of every description. Games of all kinds. Building and Alphabet Blocks. Toilet Sets—new designs—choice French Soaps, Brushes, Combs, Leather and Calf Wallets, Pipes and Smokers' Articles. Story Books for old and young. 200 kinds English and American Confectionery.

Call early and make your selections

A few items from the Fairfield Advertiser lend additional light to the early Christmas activities.

December 21, 1888

Everybody interested in the decoration of Trinity Church is requested to be on hand and help on Monday next at 9 A.M.

\* \* \*

The Christmas Tree exercises for the Sunday-School of Trinity Church will be held in the Church on Friday evening next December 28 at 7:30 o'clock.

\* \* \*

The Congregational Society has been engaged during the week in decorating their church with evergreen trimmings for Christmas.

\* \* \*

The young people and others have been very busy at Trinity Chapel preparing the Christmas decorations this week. A very large number have been present and a great deal of good work done.

\* \* \*

Greenfield Hill—December 21, 1888

A Christmas entertainment will be held at the Church in this place on Monday evening. A Christmas arch is designed as part of the decoration. A literary and musical programme have been arranged.

Some sing to show us their good will  
While others sing to show their skill  
The organist, he played to kill  
But now alas for Greenfield Hill  
The choir and organ both are still.

As one reads of the past there was also an occasional reference to other holidays in Fairfield. Celebrations of these, like Christmas were much more simple than we know them today.

Thanksgiving, always a day of prayer, was also a day of feasting quite early. Like the first Thanksgiving good food was an important part of the day.

Hull Sherwood reported:

November 29, 1815

Father peddles turkeys and we have some pies made for Thanksgiving.

November 30, 1815

This day being appointed by our Legislature for a public Thanksgiving, we accordingly manifest it as usual. Mr. Sherwood performs divine service.



April 13, 1815

Day of Thanksgiving throughout—for providential deliverance from the calamities of War—we dine upon 18 lb. turkey and puddings.

December 1, 1814

Today is Thanksgiving Day by appointment of Governor J. C. Smith.

In 1845 November 26 was Thanksgiving Day in Connecticut while New York observed it on December 4. Reminds one of our "Republican" and "Democratic" Thanksgivings of about 25 years ago.

Thanksgiving was also a day to go hunting. The men would get up earlier than usual that morning, get their chores done in a hurry and go off hunting grey squirrels or rabbits for the rest of the morning. All would be on hand for the dinner complete with the fixings however.

The gaiety of New Year's too is very recent. One can find notes about visiting family or friends and staying for a New Year's supper either on the last day of the old year or the first day of the new year about 1875. Later there would be a ball to lighten the evening as well.

The Fourth of July as the day of American Independence has long been observed in Fairfield for Hull Sherwood wrote:

July 4, 1815

I go down to Fairfield in the P.M. where they celebrate the American Independence in National salutes, baked pigs and wine with merry songs and music.

This too is part of our past. Some of these practices are still part of us. Perhaps we might renew some of the others.



## CHAPTER 17

### ENTERTAINMENT IN FAIRFIELD OVER THE YEARS

One cannot help but wonder how these wonderful folk of years back spent their "spare" time. One uses that word advisedly for when we realize how hard they had to work and how little they had to do with, there was hardly time left for many pleasurable moments. Thus they took their fun as they found it and enjoyed each change of pace and held on to it with joy. There were simple pleasures and each were planned for eagerly awaited for as the appointed time came.

The several diaries which I have had the opportunity to read show that as the 19th century appeared dances were popular and these continued through the entire 100 years. On May 5, 1812 Hull Sherwood reported —

In the evening we had a dance at Abel Ogden's and Samuel Beers played and on August 27 of the same year—rain in the morning until 9 o'clock, then the clouds came over from the north and I went to Fairfield Woods to engage a fiddler, the P.M. cool—we had an Oyster Frolic in Lockwood's Swamp and in the evening a ball at John Hull's with Mr. Bebe for a musician.

and again on Feb. 28, 1815 he recorded —

In the evening I attended a ball at John Hull's with my female companion. The company is composed of about 24 couples, some of which are from each adjoining district. We have a fine ball and a regaling repast on cake and cheese moistened with wine. We retire about 2 o'clock.

Jonathan Bulkley also told:

Mill River Aug. 12, 1808, last night was a ball at Mrs. Pike's ballroom with quite a handsome collection of young ladies and a respectful collection of gentlemen.

and again on Thurs. Feb. 27, 1817 —

Last evening was a Ball at Mrs. Pike's Ballroom attended by about 50 gentlemen and ladies. There has been 2 plays performed at Mrs. Pike's this winter by Capt. William Robinson Jr. and Co.—one called "Fox Chan" and the other called "The Age Tomorrow"—performed *very* well.

There were series dances or balls held at various

places throughout town. Hull Sherwood stated the following:

Dec. 14, 1815—In the evening I attend and commence a Quarter of Assembly dances at Mill River with my sister Eleanor which are regularly to be opened each fortnight. I spend the evening very agreeably and the dance is conducted with the greatest beauty and order—we retire at 12 o'clock and I fancy none the worse but the better for attending so decent and so harmless a recreation.

These were called the Mill River Assemblies and continued for 3 months through the winter. Jan. 25, 1816, Mr. Sherwood said:

As evening comes, I make provision to carry the girls to the 4th Assembly Ball. We meet a numerous host in the Assembly Room and for my own part, I enjoy the evening superlatively when not engaged in the dance, I endeavor to improve by conversation with the fine wrought ladies. The time passed unheeded off while this agreeably entertained not only this but a delicious refreshment of fish and fowl imported from the City. After supping to our fill we retire about 10 and I attended the girls home safely.

It would seem that often the dances went on much later. Mr. Frank Sherwood told of attending many:

Jan. 19, 1869—Played to a Ball at Theodore Hendrix—got home at 5 o'clock in the morning.

Feb. 16, 1871—Went to Bill Lyon's on an ox sled to a Ball with Bill and Charry. John Curtis played. Rode home with Fred and stayed all night with him. Clear and beautiful day.

Mar. 22, 1871—Went to Fox Hunter's 4th Annual oyster supper and ball held at William Smith's. Henry played. Stayed all night. Had a grand time. The room was decorated with 17 Fox skins hanging around.

Aug. 29, 1871—Went to a Moonlight Dance.

Aug. 26, 1875—Came up on the Hill and played at B. B. Banks all night for a party.

And in 1869:

Went to Bill Smith's to a surprise party and came home at sunrise.

Also Thurs., Jan. 17, 1884:

Went to Simon Bradley's to a Ball, had a splendid time.



When the parlors were used often times rather than taking up the carpeting, unbleached muslin was spread over the floor area and danced upon.

Bright's Hall over the General Store in Platts-ville too was a popular place for dances Mr. Robert Beecher told me. George Bright would do the calling, Sam Bulkley would play the violin, and folks would gather from a good distance to swing their partners and circle eight.

\* \* \*

Early menageries or travelling annual shows too were a great curiosity of the time—another form of entertainment. On Oct. 31, 1818 William Wheeler reported —

I saw at Bridgeport a camel between 7 and 8 feet high with the Arabian Saddle on his back. An African Lion, tame—the keeper put his hand in his mouth—the Lama from Peru, of a brownish white—he had very fine wool—the Marmoset and two monkeys who danced to music of the cymbal and bass drum and walked the slack rope.

He also recorded on Oct. 14, 1833 —

Saw at Bridgeport—a Lion and Lioness, Elephant, Tiger, Leopard, Rhinosaurus, Panther, Polar Bear, Zebra, Shetland Pony, Cougar, Hyena, Porcupine, Jaguar and 17 monkeys.

—and again on April 13, 1835—a great animal show at Bridgeport.

Frank L. Sherwood said on April 13, 1868—

Went to Bridgeport—stayed to circus in the evening—got home at 1 A.M.

—Also on May 20, 1869:

Went to a European Circus in the afternoon. A large meteor in the evening at 10 minutes past 11.

—and on Tues., April 22, 1873 wrote—

Went to Bridgeport to see P. T. Barnum's great circus and menagerie—gone all day—cloudy in the forenoon and raining hard all the afternoon and evening.

Hull Sherwood told on Feb. 29, 1812—

I saw a calf with 4 tongues & 6 jaws and a bear and a panther alive, also a shark skin, a two headed calf skin and an alligator skin stuffed and sewed, all wax figures and a great number of paper images as active as life and very curious.

The children always anxiously awaited the coming of the advance ad men who put up the large posters on the barns along the country roads announcing the coming date of the Circus and left free passes for all of the family of the owner of the barn and for any other youngsters who just "happened" to be present at the time. Timothy Dwight, President of Yale sanctioned a Circus on November 2, 1796.

Singing Schools, Concerts, and Lectures were also of great interest. In 1845 there were monthly Concerts in the "Church Basement".

Groups met from one house to the other to sing together. From Miss Sarah White's diary in 1882—"Singing School held twice a week in Chapel under charge of Prof. Perkins of N. Y. \$4 for 20 lessons".

There was a lecture on Richard the III at Washington Hall (upstairs in the former Pequot School) Nov. 11, 1886 and Miss Sarah White recorded in her diary on Aug. 12, 1870

D. D. E. P. Rogers delivered a Lecture on the Tower of London. Tickets 50¢, the avails to erect a fence around the Meeting House.

And from the Southport Chronicle, Aug. 15, 1869 —

Prof. Blazo, alias Prof. Von Humbug, advertised to deliver a "Free Illustrated Lecture—Moral, Instructive, Important and Amusing", last evening, 13th, at Washington Hall. A large audience congregated at the Hall to be partakers of this intellectual feast, but in the meantime "Prof." Von Humbug had suddenly decamped—taking the eight o'clock train for Bridgeport. While his hearers (to be) were quietly awaiting here his august presence, he was enjoying, perhaps, "a good smoke" in that city. He left his trunks, with orders for them to be forwarded in the morning; there is some talk of attaching them for sundry bills contracted by him in the place.

Southport Chronicle, June 7, 1873 —

The last meeting of the Fairfield Singing School came off Thursday evening. The members returned their thanks to their efficient Mr. Andrew P. Wakeman, and parted singing an appropriate song.

Dec. 7, 1870—Southport Chronicle —

Josh Billings Lecture at the Town House Friday Evening was a success. The house was very well filled and "Josh" kept the audience in high good humor for over an hour. We hear that another humorous speaker will soon "lecture" in Fairfield under the auspices of the Unquowa Club. We hope this may prove true.

## SAMP MORTAR — THE GRAND CONCERT July 10, 1884

The vocal and instrumental concert given at the Stratfield Baptist Church Thursday evening June 26th by Prof. Joseph Keller and class, of Fairfield Woods, was a complete success, a first-class musical entertainment for the people in this locality, and a fine, orderly, and appreciative audience greeted the singers. ALL the members were highly complimented by those who were present from Bridgeport, competent judges—In fact everybody expressed themselves as being well pleased with the Professor's work, his class and his evening entertainment.



The following is the

### PROGRAMME

Overtures—Grand Entre March, and Waltz de Concert, by the Orchestra.

Choruses—The Pedestrian, The Swiss Girl, The Vale where my Home Lies, by the Class.

Piano Duets—Clayton's Grand March and The Waves of the Ocean, by Mrs. Osborn, and Miss Smith.

Piano Selections—No One to Love, by Mrs. Osborn; Come back to Erin, with variations, by Prof. Keller, (by request); Bella Waltz, by Miss Annie Smith.

Songs—O Restless Sea, by Mrs. B. Wilson; We Never Speak as we pass by, by Miss Alice Palmer.

Duets, vocal—My own Dear Mountain Home, by Miss King, Mrs. Osborn; All is well, by John and Thos. Reid.

Solos and Choruses—Ever so fondly Dreaming, by J. Reid; O Shall I ever Meet them Again, by Mrs. Osborn.

Quartette—Moonlight on the Lake, by Misses Palmer and Brown, Messrs. Smith and Reid.

String Quartette—Crimson and Blue, Messrs. Batch, Keller, Miller, and Keallin.

Grand Chorus—American Flag, Quartette, Class and Orchestra.

Accompanist—Miss Lura Wilson.

Director—Prof. Keller.

This class has been organized but six months, meeting only on Friday evening rain or shine.

The Professor began by demanding perfect and undivided attention, and they thought he was going to be "too strict", but he "meant business" and he has the good will of each pupil today.

At the earnest solicitation of the members of the class, Prof. Keller has consented to begin again in the fall.

The Professor has proved a very efficient teacher of instrumental music here in years gone by, and during the past winter and spring has come to the front as a teacher of vocal music.

He used a piano of his own make at the above concert.

### JUNE 10, 1886 — THE CONCERT

The concert given by the Y. P. L. C. Singing class at the chapel of the Congregational Church, Tuesday evening, was very well attended. The class was assisted by Messrs. O. T. Sherwood and A. C. Bradley, and by the following Bridgeport talent; Dr. and Mrs. H. P. Cole, Miss Mary Stickles, Miss Neva S. Conger and Mr. A. J. Wilkins. The programme was as follows:

#### Part First

1. Organ Solo—"Poet and Peasant Overture", by O. T. Sherwood.
2. Chorus—"When Evening Twilight", by the Class.
3. Quartette—"Come Dorothy Come", Mrs. Cole, Miss Stickles, Messrs. Wilkins and Cole.
4. Chorus—"Sweet Voice", by the Class.
5. Soprano Solo—"Pretty Zingarella", by Mrs. Cole.

6. Chorus—"Evening Bells", by the Class.
7. Quartette—"Sailors' Song", by Mrs. Cole, Miss Stickles, Messrs. Wilkins and Cole.
8. Bass Solo—by Dr. Cole.
9. Chorus—"Silent Night", Class.

#### Part Second

1. Organ Solo—O. T. Sherwood.
2. Contralto Solo—Miss Stickles.
3. Chorus—"Ring on ye Bells", Class.
4. Quartette—"Song of the Triton", Mrs. Cole, Miss Stickles, Messrs. Wilkins and Cole.
5. Tenor Solo—"Good Night Beloved", A. J. Wilkins.
6. Quartette—"Spring Song", Mrs. Cole, Miss Stickles, Messrs. Wilkins and Cole.
7. Chorus—"Alone I Walk the Ocean Strand", Class.
8. Chorus—"Up Away", Class.

Musical — June 29, 1898

#### Programme

1. Second Regiment Quick Step—duet  
F. Bradley—M. Morehouse
2. Fairy Dream ..... Edna Alling
3. Hickory Galop ..... Mary Raymond
4. Flowers of May ..... Georgie Banks
5. Song of The Forest—duet  
M. Raymond—M. Lynch
6. A Morning Song ..... Elva Banks  
A Happy Home ..... Elva Banks
7. Song selected ..... Edna Alling
8. Love's Sweet Dream ..... Florence Bradley
9. Jingle Bells—duet .. B. Archibald—N. Bradley
10. That Waltz of Von Webert—Recitation  
Elva Banks
11. La Carmine ..... Ethel Maud Lynch
12. Greeting in the Forest  
Dorothy Smith—Mollie Morehouse
13. Les Sylphet ..... Bessie Archibald
14. Forget Me Not ..... Maud Lynch
15. Songs by four Yaller gals.

#### Declamations

F. Minot Banks

Hereby announces to the citizens of Bridgeport and vicinity that he contemplates giving an entertainment in Declamations at

Hawes Opera House

on Wednesday, the 27th of August instant, commencing at 3 o'clock P.M.

By reciting the following pieces to wit:

1. A Poem of which a poet by the name of Young is the author.
2. A piece entitled First Kind Word.
3. A Valentine written by an old lady of Stratford who was 88 years old, and sent to her only surviving school mate who was 89.

The following pieces have never been put on paper:

4. A Historical Address in poetry relative to the burning of Fairfield, Greens Farms, Norwalk and Danbury by the British a little more than a hundred years ago.



5. An address in poetry delivered by the speaker at a Sunday School Picnic at Parlor Rock in August A.D. 1882.

6. Closing with an interesting Love Story.

N.B.—If the weather should be stormy it will be on Friday afternoon the 29th.

Admission 25 cents to all parts of the house.

Lecture to commence at 7 o'clock—Admittance twenty-five cents, Children half price. Tickets at the Bar. (See picture section)

Tuesday, Sept. 4th, 1896.

\* \* \*

Frolics were popular also as the 1800's appeared. There might be a Charity Frolic or a Donation party where all invited gathered at someone's house with perhaps money, or probably provisions for a needy neighbor. There would be a repast to close the evening. When a new couple moved into the neighborhood there was always a housewarming to welcome the new couple and the pantry would be completely stocked in one evening. There were Spinning Frolics where several would get together to Spin for a friend for the afternoon or evening, and Nut Frolics where several would go off together to gather nuts.

April 19, 1815—Mrs. Jennings had a Spinning Frolic. She had a great deal given her from the inhabitants and received them with a grateful heart.

—from Jonathan Bulkley.

There were Quilting Frolics when the ladies joined forces to help each other to quilt a bed quilt. Then too, Wood Cutting Bees for the needy were often held. On Jan. 3, 1806 there was a Turkey Frolic at Mr. Pike's, according to Jonathan Bulkley. He also told of the following:

Thurs. night, March 2, 1814, there was a Nut Frolic to Capt. John Hull's attended by 24 gentlemen and a large collection of ladies. Mr. J. Bangs, Manager.

March 6, 1814—It happened to be training day and all our forces marched up to Mr. Samuel Beers and had a Turkey Frolic, pretty well for war times.

March 15, 1814—The great folks had an Oyster Frolic at Mr. Knapp's in Fairfield.

Sometimes the Frolics lasted more than one day—a series of events. In one diary I found: Nov. 28, 1812—"Husked some corn in part and played with the girls having a jolly bunch of them here. As it is Saturday night we wind off the Thanksgiving frolic". (A Husking Bee with a free kiss going to each lad who happened to find a red ear of corn).

There were Oyster suppers and picnics. On July 29, 1870 Mr. Sherwood tells of having "a boil of clams" at Pine Creek and on Sept. 1, 1875 "Picnic at the Forge—carried up a good 2 horse loads, had a good time" and on Aug. 25, 1875—"went to Bradley's, took his oxen home, came back and went to a Sunday School picnic in T. B. Gould's woods in the afternoon", again

## A Lecture at the Town Hall—

### EDUCATION AND DELIGHT

Doctor Dennis, of New York, Professor of Astronomy and Philosophy, Lecturer on Mechanics and Hydraulics, Practical and Scientific Steam Engineer, &c.; respectfully informs the Ladies and Gentlemen of this vicinity, that he will deliver a Lecture on the Science of Astronomy, this evening at FAIRFIELD COURTHOUSE, illustrated by the most beautiful transparent diagrams, magnified and reflected by a powerful optical instrument, similar to an orrery of brilliant light, exhibiting a beautiful view of the Solar System, with the twelve Signs of the Zodiac, and two Comets; a telescopic view of the Sun with its spots and rays, of Mercury, Venus, the Earth and Moon, Mars, the four Asteroids, Vesta, Juno, Ceres and Pallas; Jupiter, with its four moons; Saturn, with its seven moons, belts and rings; Herschel, with its six moons; the Comet of 1680, and that of 1811, with their fiery trains; phases or changes of the Moon; inclination of the Earth's and their causes, Spring Tides and Neap Tides; roundness or spherical form of the Earth, proved by two ships in motion, approaching two others at rest; two partial and one total Eclipse of the Moon; two partial, one annular, and one total Eclipse of the Sun; transit of Venus, Rainbows, Clouds, Constellations, Seven Stars, Balloons, Volcanoes, &c.

He will then give a general display of the Magic Lantern and Phantasmagoria, including a great variety in Natural History, of Animals, Birds, Fish, and insects; Pleasant Landscapes, rich and beautiful Garden Flowers, the American Beauty with her garland, the Magic Sailor, &c. Rivers, Bridges, Shipping and Carriages: Likenesses of eminent men—Washington, Lafayette, Franklin, Newton, &c. Rural Scenes—Spring with its Flowers, Summer with its Grain, Autumn with its Fruit, and Winter with its Fireside. Moral Pieces, Seven stages of Human Life, from the Cradle to the Grave; the Rosebud that blooms and dies in a moment, with a variety of funny pieces, calculated to produce a smile on the soberest face. He will then exhibit a real Loadstone, and powerful Artificial Magnet, and show their attractive and repulsive influence on the Mariner's and Surveyor's Magnetic Compass Needles, by actual experiment, and the method of magnetizing needles, on sea or land when they fail to traverse. He will then put in operation his new and complete Electric Machine, giving gentle shocks to those who wish it; and close with a few pleasing Philosophical and Chemical Experiments.

Music, soft and sweet, on the little Steel Piano Forte.



in 1872 "a ball and Oyster Supper to William Lyon's this evening" and on Feb. 7, 1884 "Oyster supper at Bill Raymond's".

Clam bakes too were frequent summer activities and Mr. Frank Sherwood tells of "a great clambake at Gregory's Point" on Aug. 28, 1873—having been given by the Fat Man's Association.

There was also a Republican Clambake at the home of Simeon Pease in the fall of 1911 and a picture of that outing is included in the picture section at the rear of this book. They would gather beach plums together or huckleberries, or dig clams together and make a picnic out of it.

From the Southport Chronicle, 1884 —

The Mill Plain, Mill Hill, Fairfield and Barlow's Plain people will picnic in the grove near the dam on the 4th. Ladies furnish refreshments and Gents appetites.

From the Southport Chronicle, 1884 —

529 persons went on Sunday School picnic of the Southport Congregational Sunday School—all gathered at the depot and went to High Rock Grove. 8 A.M.—7 P.M. rainy day—the skating rink was popular.

#### S. S. CLUB'S ANNUAL PICNIC JULY 3, 1884

The S. S. Club with their friends, numbering about twenty ladies and gentlemen left Southport, Wednesday morning June 25th, in Mr. Edward Henshaw's four horse bus to hold their 1st annual picnic at the Nichols' homestead in Weston, being the guests of Mr. Samuel Nichols of this village.

After a ride of some two hours, the club and their friends arrived at Weston where they were met by twenty or thirty ladies and gentlemen from Weston, Westport and Easton.

At 12 o'clock the club sat down to an old fashion clam bake, to which ample justice was done by the club and its friends, after which dancing was commenced which lasted for two hours or more.

The club then bade good-bye to their friends from Westport and Weston and started for home, arriving in this village about seven o'clock.

A vote of thanks was voted to Mr. Samuel Nichols, for the way that he handled the ribbons. Mr. Nichols is called the "celebrated four horse drive" of this vicinity.

It was also voted by all who attended the most enjoyable affair that the club has ever held.

Robert L. Shepherd  
Sec'y pro tem.

\* \* \*

There were Sailing parties on the Sound occasionally in the warm months and sleighing parties and skating parties in the winter.

On Sept. 10, 1868 Mr. Sherwood "went to Northport, Long Island on a Masonic excursion—aboard the City of Norwalk—very rough time—great many sea sick—got home at 10 o'clock at night".

Hull Sherwood recorded on Aug. 25, 1814 —

Today we go sailing, having the wind westward—we crossed the Sound and beat down to Neat Light and into Cow Harbor, there being about 20 couples. We walk across to J. Scudder and take supper, after which we have a ball with watermelons in abundance.

This from Jonathan Bulkley —

Mill River, Aug. 17, 1808—yesterday Mill River Farms and Mill Plain company went on a party of pleasure to Long Island but did not land—and returned the same day in the afternoon all well—except the ladies being very seasick—the vessel who carried the party was The Industry of Capt'n Banks. After we landed the Company returned to Mr. Able Ogden's at Mill Plain and partook of a supper and spent the remainder of the evening in dancing.

Also from Mr. Bulkley —

J. B. and lady set out Sunday evening Sept. 12, 1819 on board Sloop Traveller bound for York. Tarried 3 days in York. Sailed for Newburgh where we arrived after a short and plain passage, where we took a land carriage and arrived at Mr. Dickerson's, 22 miles west of Newburgh in the Town of Montgomery Society of Hopewell where we found them well. Stayed 12 days and started in a wagon with Mr. & Mrs. Dickerson for home, crossed the River in the horse boat and arrived at W. Caley's in less than 2 days—distance 85 miles. The Dickerson's stayed 12 days and returned.

Sleighing parties took many forms but usually they would conclude their trip at the home of one of the party or another friend and a dance would be in progress soon after their arrival.

Today's Senior citizens' eyes just sparkle as they relate the fun and gaiety of riding on a double ripper down Sport Hill, or Congress Street hill or Bronson Road or on J. K. Robinson's red velvet cushioned one down Vault Hill (Verna Hill Road between Bronson Road and Hillside Road). The skating parties on the Mill Ponds too on clear, cold, moonlight nights were moments of great sport and joy.

Dec. 30, 1916—Several hundred are expected tonight at the ice carnival to be held at Perry's Pond, Mill Plain for the benefit of the Vassar College Fund under the direction of Miss Nellie Wheeler, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Samuel H. Wheeler and Miss Deborah Glover daughter of Mrs. H. S. Gloyer. Three or four bonfires will be lighted about the pond and Japanese lanterns will be hung. Hot coffee and frankfurters will be served. Jitneys will run



from Fairfield center to the pond after 7:30 o'clock. Admission will be charged at the pond. The skating at present is very good and a great many are expected to disport in the moonlight.

\* \* \*

There were Candy Pulls, Exhibitions, and Building raisings. Hull Sherwood wrote on April 25, 1816 —

Today I raise the main body of my house with about 40 men. The frame comes together jointly and after which the air resounds with Huzza from every tongue together with the Toast of Piety and Honesty to the Farmer contemporary to the name I had given 'Residentiary of Piety'. We got through with the raising before night and I provide a field for ball playing until supper is ready—we have a good Pot Pie made of veal and turkey sufficient for a plentiful supper. The principal part tarry in the evening and drink grog and sing by the spirit of it until 9 o'clock. I am left very weary.

A perfect example of their interdependence.

Frank Sherwood on Mar. 26, 1874 recorded: "Had a molasses candy party in the evening and a dance likewise."

Mrs. Lottie Burr told me that there was a special hook in her Mother's kitchen to pull the candy. They would throw it over the hook, pull it and then cut the candy in pieces.

The exhibitions were usually at the School-houses or the Churches. Mr. Frank Sherwood told about going "to an Indian performance in the Church hall".

On May 21, 1814, Hull Sherwood recorded—"Today Sam Beers moves a barn—we lend our oxen to him".

Helping each other and having fun doing it again.

The folk enjoyed the Cattle Show for Fairfield County held in Bridgeport on Oct. 12, 1842 and the County Fairs held in Norwalk. It is said that Greenfield "Broke" this County Fair in the late 1800's when they appeared with their best oxen—27 pairs, and went home with all of the prize money—as a result this was the last year the Fair was held.

Later Danbury Fair was looked forward to and well attended by Fairfield folk. They exhibited their best and attended as many of the days as possible. It was a time for fellowship, seeing friends and relations from other parts of Connecticut as well as seeing the many curiosities brought to the Fair. For a few years the Greenfield Country Club Fair was a large Fair and a town wide event.

The schools of Town were closed to permit the children to attend the Fair.

Sept. 4, 1905—It was voted to permit the Schools at Centre, Southport, Mill Plain, Greenfield, Wilsons Mills and Banks to close on afternoons of Wed., Thurs., Sept. 14 and 15 to attend the Country Club Fair.

The Grange Fairs too have long been anticipated events by young and old alike. These have stood the test of time and are still held in early September at the Grange Hall on Hillside Road, Greenfield Hill. This year, 1960, marked the 61st annual Greenfield Hill Grange Fair.

Ploughing Matches always attracted a crowd.

May 8, 1884—The Third Annual Plowing Match was held Saturday at Robert Dickie's Farm and there was a good attendance. Six and 1/2 Acres were plowed. There were 12 contestants including one yoke of oxen and the cash prizes amounted to \$50. The awards being the best and cleanest plowing, each team turning up half an acre from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. The prizes awarded were: First prize \$20 F. Bronson's ox team; second F. Bronson's team driven by Miles Howe; 3rd, \$10 to O. B. Jennings' team, driven by H. Peterson; fourth, \$5 to Bronson's team driven by G. J. Kelly; fifth, a whalebone horse whip to R. Dickie. After the match the guests enjoyed the usual collation served in Mr. D's famous style. The judges were David Buckley, Marvin Hull and Andrew Wakeman. The entries were R. Dickie, 4 teams; B. B. Banks, O. B. Jennings, E. Morehouse, F. Bronson, two horse and one ox team; Wm. Murray, Jonathan Sturgis and a Stratford team.

\* \* \*

The early interest in town in Ball games was surprising to find. Mr. Frank Sherwood recorded on Sept. 10, 1868 —

Went to Williamsburg, (N. Y.) to the baseball match between the Atlantics of Brooklyn and Union Marsenic champions of the United States. The Atlantics—victors 31 to 7.

He had taken the boat to New York from here. Then on Oct. 1, 1875 he wrote:

In the afternoon went on the Hill (Greenfield) to see a baseball match between the Resolutes of Greenfield and the Rip Raps of Westport, resulting in favor of the latter—about two to one—clear and beautiful day.

Even back on April 25, 1816 when Hull Sherwood had his house raising he told of providing "a field for ball playing until supper was ready"—and about 1885 —

The Crescents and Alerts of Redding played Aug. 3 at Sport Hill. The Crescents came off victorious. They are to play the Excelsiors, Saturday, the 9th, near the residence of N. B. Hill.

\* \* \*

Amateur Theatricals were perennial favorites with old and young alike. "Uncle Rube", a comedy in three acts, and "Strife", a tragedy in



as many acts were given again and again for many audiences throughout town by the Greenfield Hill Grange. Another dramatic performance entitled "The Old Maids Convention" attracted crowds wherever and whenever it was presented. A newspaper report of the program is included here. "Professor Makeover's Remodelscope" would have put some of our modern "devices" to shame. This was old time fun at its best.

# OLD MAIDS CONVE SOUTHPORT MAIDENS WITHOUT PROS- PECTS HOLD A CAUCUS

## QUOTATIONS ON BACHELORS

Most of Them Are Ripe to Pick But Some Are  
Awfully Shy

All the old maids of Southport, Greenfield Hill, Fairfield and the neighborhood gathered last evening at Washington Hall in Southport (Pequot School) to hold an "old maids' convention", following the discovery that 1900 skips a leap year, and, therefore, gives the old maids no chance at all. The old maids gathered in considerable force, and they brought with them their parrots, canaries, pet cats and pretty much everything else but the traditional "matches and green tea". They met to discuss the situation and formulate plans.

After a good deal of talk and considerable "sass" on both sides it was finally voted to reinforce that familiar old chestnut, "While there's life there's hope", with an amendment that it would be a good thing to even things up and have a little more life and a little, just a little, less hope, the idea being that the thing has been rather one-sided the past few years.

Perhaps it ought to be said just here that most of the old maids who appeared on the platform were from 16 to 22 years of age. They were about the fairest and the prettiest for miles about, and the unattached young men in the audience were on pins and needles until the curtain was finally rung down.

The stage was set with big flaming hearts, made of red flannel, no doubt, pierced by arrows whittled from shingles. But it was prosaic, and, after all, nobody saw the hearts and the arrows. Chief interest centered in the old maids. There was at one end a remarkable looking machine labelled "Prof. Makeover's Remodelscope", and a piano filled the other end. Then there were some draperies, lamps and other things. The program was as follows: "The Old Maid's Convention" Washington Hall, Southport, Conn. Monday evening, Feb. 26, 1900, 8 o'clock.

The "Convention" is held by and consists of the amusing sayings and doings of the Young Ladies' Single Blessedness Debating society of Greenfield Hill.

Entertainment is in three parts:

Part first—On the way to the convention.

Part second—At the convention.

Part third—Transformation.

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

Pres., Josephine Jane Green .....Carrie C. Sherwood  
Sec., Priscilla Abigail Hodge ....Belle Adams  
Hostess, Jerusha M. Spriggins ..Addie B. Bradley  
Betsey Bobbett .....Annie Bulkley  
Tiny Short .....Marietta Knapp  
Polly Ann Spratt .....Georgia Jennings  
Juliette Song .....Laura Dowd  
Mary Jane Praddler .....Anna B. Bradley  
Calamity Jane Higgins .....Hattie Bulkley  
Sophia Stuckup .....Lillian I. Lewis  
Lily Arabella White (colored)..Marion H. Wilson  
Professor Makeover .....Raymond Matson  
(Rastus) Prof's Asst. (colored) Clarence H. Bradley  
Substitutes—Jessie Lobdell, Mary Jennings, Irene S. Bradley, Walter Merwin, Elizabeth Bradley, Edna Bulkley, Georgia Bulkley, Marion Wilson (colored).

For the first part, Hostess Spriggins, who took her role very cleverly, occupied the stage and received her "candidates" for transformation. They came flocking in from all doors to the hall and created a deal of merriment by their questions and evident anxiety. They were arrayed in all sorts of old clothes and looked as old as the oldest inhabitant. They were welcomed severally and collectively, and then the second part opened.

Here was where the stingy bachelors got a good roast on both sides, for the secretary of the meeting, Priscilla Abigail Hodge (Miss Belle Adams), read off a list which was calculated to scorch hearts already blistered. It gave at a glance the market quotations on the "unhitched", as follows:

Herbert Jennings, very susceptible; Fred Wells, in demand; Wakie Sherwood, very active; Harry Mills, Fairfield, waiting a bid; Frank Wood, a good investment; Oliver Meeker, Greenfield, warranted strictly pure; John Wells, Dr. Hetzel, Fred Skiff, George Northrop, as good as gone; Henry Burr Jennings, gone to the highest bidder; Frederick Hyde, Harry Jennings, Charlie Fox, checked from list since last convention; Eddie Cole, pursuing love's young dream; Jack Sherwood, allured by city attractions; James O. Bulkley, out of the market; Henry Meeker, very uncertain; Chig Bulkley, Walter Meeker, choice bargain lots; Everitt Jelliff, cupid's best friend; Harry Meade, in demand; Charlie Taintor, captivating; Ed Penney in the market; Fred Jennings, immovable; J. T. Corlew, waiting for some one to grow up; J. Frank Elwood, behind time; C. M. Gilman, second to none; John Parker, genial clerk at L. B. Switzer's thinks it an "easy time" for old maids; Raymond Matson, Greenfield, He loves us all too well to marry one, he'd take the lot had he been Croesus' son; Walter Merwin, Greenfield, waiting for a girl with lots of tin; Edwin Sherwood, Greenfield, he smiles and smiles, but won't propose.

Part three, the transformation scene, furnished the chief fun of the evening. The old maids were sent through Prof. Makeover's machine and ground into what they most desired to be, the only stipulation being that they must give their exact age. The machine was a tall, black box and after a few preliminaries the candidates entered, singly or in pairs. They told what they wished to be when they came



out, elocutionists, singers, actors, etc., and then a sturdy, sweating negro turned the crank, the inmates disappeared amidst shrieks and the crunching of bones, and in few minutes it was all over.

There was a great chance in this for a lot of fun and it was improved. Lily Arabelle White (colored) went in at a guess weight of 225 and came out quite sylph-like and festive, able to skip to rag time and sing a ditty. Mary Jane Praddler lied about her age, almost broke the indicator, which went into frightful contortions, and finally had to be run through a second time. Tiny Short, aged 90, who carried her pet poodle, came out a slip of a girl with a roll of bologna on her arm; another candidate who "wished to be a man" was accommodated, and in various other ways the machine, under Prof. Makeover's manipulation, proved a veritable wonder.

There was a large audience and everybody enjoyed the affair. It was given under the auspices of the Daughters of the King, of Southport.

These were generally money raising projects for groups of the Churches or of an organization in Town.

In the picture section of this book there is a picture of a George Washington Party held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Simon Bradley for the benefit of the Greenfield Hill Congregational Church. It was a very formal affair with printed invitations and all—a lovely evening really and so enjoyed by everyone.

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There were many other forms of entertainment as the years went on. Jonathan Bulkley tells of a puppet show on Feb. 3, 1808.

Feb. 3, 1808—A puppet show was exhibited at Mrs. Pike's last evening consisting of a great deal of deception. A Mr. Punch and the royal family with a great deal of fine music.

And the Southport Chronicle was an excellent source for others.

1884—The Strawberry festival at the Cross Highway Chapel last week on Wed. evening was a fine affair and a success netting \$50.

That Chapel was called Safe Guard and was just over the line in Westport although Fairfield folk attended it. Mr. Kettle, pastor of the Greenfield Hill Congregational Church, held Prayer Meetings there. (Hope Chapel on Stillson Road and Faith Chapel in Tunxis Hill were also very active).

Frank Sherwood wrote on Oct. 11, 1883 —

Went to Bridgeport to the Firemen's Parade—carried over a load (of people)—a great day for Bridgeport.

Minstrels too were popular and in 1868 Mr. Sherwood told of going to Minstrels up in the Center Street Methodist Church Hall.

The district schools held programs once or twice each year—usually to raise money for maps or needs of the classroom of one sort or another. About 1890 —

Last Wednesday evening, March 18, the pupils of Bulkley's District School under the guidance of their teacher, Miss Osborn, gave a pleasant entertainment at Academy Hall (Dwight School) which was well filled with interested spectators. Everything passed off in fine style, reflecting credit on Miss Osborn, who had been unwearied in her efforts to make this entertainment a success. A snug little sum (over \$20) was netted for the school treasury. The program:

Singing—Little Busy Bee—School  
 Dialogue—Opening speech  
 Welcome speech—Maggie Dalling  
 Recitation—Briar Rose—Annie Baker  
 Number exercise—nine pupils  
 Concert exercise—Little Fingers  
 Singing—Upidee—School  
 Recitation—Widow Spriggin's daughter—Fred Morehouse  
 Gymnastics—School  
 Two Tableaux—Three Little Maids of Lee  
 Recitation—Father's Fool—Frank Wakeman  
 Funny Uncle Phil—Jane Dalling  
 Song—Georgie Meeker  
 Dialogue—Enrollment  
 Recitation—Among the Animals—Johnnie Dalling  
 Recitation—Georgie Meeker  
 Dialogue—Johnnie Dalling & George Connors  
 Song—Little Mothers  
 Recitation—Lillie Meeker  
 Dialogue—Playing School  
 Tableau—Johnnie Horner  
 Dialogue—Playing dentist  
 Tableau—Au Revoir

At the Old Academy the Crowning of the May Queen was an important event and was often marked by suitable ceremonies. Mary Elizabeth Osborne was chosen Queen by the votes of the school children in 1845. Jennie Skinner was chosen as her maid of honor. Her coronation took place in a pretty piece of woods on the south side of the Old Road which led through the old fields over Sasco Hill and just beyond where it crosses the little creek. The day was beautiful and a bower of green branches and flowers enclosed the royal party. A numerous company, including many of the older residents, was present.

The children, too, took part in the Town's festivities.

Sept. 4, 1884—*A Children's Ball-Masque*

A children's ball-masque was given last Wednesday evening. There were many grotesque costumes. Among the little folks and others in fancy dress were: Miss Lulu Eldred, as Swiss Peasant; Miss



Lizzie Waterhouse, as Nun; Miss E. Hoytest, as Dutch Peasant; Miss Riette Eldred, as Ballet Girl; Miss Helen Talman, as Goddess of Liberty; Miss Stella Van Aden, as Fairy; Miss Lulu Van Aden, as Fairy; Miss Sallie Durant, as Bride; Miss Murray, as Jockey; Miss Richards, as Lady Washington; Miss Mabel Stanwood, as Sultana; Miss Florence Sands, Aesthetic Maiden; Miss R. Hoffheimer, as Fairy; Miss Stella Clark, as Fairy; Chester Darling, as Mephistopheles; H. Durand, as Dude; Ernest Clark, as Clown; Frank Page, as Pack of Cards.

—New York World

Balloon ascensions were a feat of daring and development and the Fairfield folk went to see them along with others. They were a part of The Greenfield Hill Country Club Fair and here is a report from the Southport Chronicle about one held in Westport but watched by many from Fairfield.

Sept. 14, 1870—THE BALLOON IN WESTPORT—A grand balloon ascension took place from Newburgh, N. Y. on 6th of September. The aeronaut, Prof. Samuel A. King, of Boston, gave the writer the following facts concerning the ascension:

This was Prof. King's 147th ascension. His balloon is 50 feet high, 30 feet in diameter, and holds 16,000 cubic feet of gas. It carries two persons. A passenger engaged the second place, but as a fresh breeze was blowing at the time of starting he deemed it prudent to remain at home.

Prof. King left Newburgh at 35 minutes past four o'clock, P.M. and arrived in Westport at 5:35, making the trip of 60 miles in just 60 minutes. He thinks the highest altitude from the earth reached was one and one half miles. The air was very chilly. The view was grand beyond the imagination of man. He could distinctly see cities 100 miles distant. At the same time he had in view every city and village on the Hudson River, and every place on the north side of the Sound from New York to Hartford.

Prof. King has five balloons. The larger holds 60,000 cubic feet of gas, and carries a boat and nine men. His first ascension was made September 25th, 1851. He says he feels no fear while soaring aloft, but sometimes dreads landing.

Prof. King is in the prime of life, of a tall, commanding form; with a high broad forehead that "rises like a mountain cone of snow", while ease and grace were manifested in his every word and action.

I saw the balloon at 8 o'clock in the evening, and as it swung at anchor with a powerful, undulating motion, in the bright moonlight, it looked like a huge, living monster, harnessed but impatient to be free.

J.

A. Holland Forbes of Fairfield was also a balloonist who gave demonstrations of ascensions at the turn of the century. While sailing in his big balloon "Viking" over Kentucky he fell. He came home by train and the remains of his balloon were shipped to New York.

Church Fairs, too, were annual events and

here is one as reported in the Fairfield Advertiser on June 26, 1884 —

## THE FAIR AND FESTIVAL—A FINE SUCCESS JUNE 26, 1884

The Fair and Festival, by the young ladies of the Congregational Church, Southport, held in the fine parlors, at the church on last Thursday evening proved a decided success and a very enjoyable affair.

The parlors were very tastily decorated with flags and flowers, the small tables were very neatly and attractively spread, and with the shining silver, china and white cloths, presented a most inviting appearance, and when to all this was added, the most agreeable, bewitching and entertaining attendants, none could resist the invitation to supper.

The refreshments were of the excellent quality for which the society is so well noted, and were of a pleasing variety as the following "bill of fare" will show:

### SUPPER

Boiled Ham	Tongue	Veal Patty
Spiced Beef		Pressed Chicken
	Baked Beans and Brown Bread	
Wheat Bread		Rye Bread
	Biscuit	
Tea		Coffee
Ice Cream		Cake

Surely an epicure would be satiated with such a "programme". The supper tables yielded a very handsome sum, and were most agreeably presided over by: Misses Mamie Osborn, Lillie Sherwood, Sadie and Mamie Alvord, Jennie Taylor, Edith Rowland, Lucy Pennell, Georgie Hull, Lottie Lacey, Amelia Jennings.

The display of fancy and useful articles was excellent, of great variety and was neatly arranged, and proved one of the features of the Fair: those who had this department in charge were: Misses Kate Henshaw and Hattie H. Perry.

"Rebeccas", were at the well, and "well" they did their part. Hither went the weary and thirsty to chat with the presiding goddesses and drink of some of the best lemonade ever tasted. Hereafter the wicked puns on festival lemonade must cease as far as this society is concerned. The "well" was a center of attraction, and we will stop here, content to let "well" enough alone—Misses Julia Johnson and Jossie West, presided at the well-sweep, and were well-up in their duties.

"Sweets to the sweets"—or in other words the confectionery tables were loaded with fresh and choice confectionery and the numerous patrons crowded about them were daintily and agreeably served by Miss Ida Ogden and Mrs. A. A. Camp. Judging from the number of packages carried off, a goodly sum was realized from this department.

The ice cream was "scooped" by a master hand, the presiding genius of the knife and fork being Mr. A. A. Camp. The bricks disappeared like "snow before a July sun".

There was a goodly variety and generous supply of rich and fancy cakes, over which Mrs. O. H.



Perry and Mrs. W. H. Holman presided.

Mr. and Mrs. L. F. Sherwood, and Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Sherwood, rendered valuable assistance "behind the scenes".

The auctioneer Mr. Edward Henshaw sold off at "fair" prices the articles not otherwise disposed of till they were "Going, Going, Gone"!

Mr. C. Williams, as ticket master made the entrance to the Parlors as pleasant as possible.

At eleven P.M., the parlors were deserted and the net proceeds were found to figure up the handsome sum of about \$140, a result highly creditable to the young ladies who originated and conducted this entertainment.

The Ladies desire us to return hearty thanks to all who in any way assisted them in their fair and supper.

An Announcement

### HANDKERCHIEF BAZAAR

to be given by the  
Y. P. S. C. E. of the

### GREENFIELD HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Greeting

To all our friends, though far or near,  
We crave your kind attention;  
So please to lend us now your ear  
While we a subject mention.  
The Y. P. S. C. E. will hold  
On a day not distant far,  
If we have been correctly told,  
A "Handkerchief Bazaar".  
So this there is our plea in brief,  
To help our enterprise,  
You each shall send a handkerchief,  
Of any kind or size.  
To be without a handkerchief  
You know is quite distressing,  
From every state let one be sent—  
'Twill surely be a blessing.  
If a handkerchief you can make,  
That handkerchief we will surely take,  
But if you can't, then buy us one,  
We'll thank you when the race is run.

Please send by April 26, 1913

Send to M. Elva Banks  
Fairfield, Conn.

There were Socials of all kinds for we read of:

A Japanese Tea and Basket Social will be given under the auspices of the Greenfield Hill Library Association at the Congregational Church parsonage on Wednesday, January 21, 1891. A table of fancy articles will also be on sale. Doors open at 7 P.M., supper at 9:30. Each lady is requested to bring a lunch for two and each gentleman his bank account.

The box socials were special events and were looked forward to for weeks in advance. The young girls fixed a delectable repast in their painstakingly decorated boxes which were auctioned off. The gentleman making the highest bid for the particular box then not only had pur-

chased his supper but also had selected his dining partner. The girl who put up the box of food shared it with the purchaser.

Whist parties, or whist socials too were popular at the close of the 19th century and the opening of the 20th century. This announcement of a series of Whist parties at Perry's Hall about 1900.

### ANNOUNCEMENT

A series of Whist will be held at Perry's Hall, Fairfield, Conn., on the following dates: Nov. 8th, Nov. 22nd, Dec. 6th. The game will begin sharp at 8:15 o'clock and the play will continue until the last trolley.

Prizes will be awarded the successful players.

Admission, 25¢

(Perry's Hall was upstairs, over Devore's Bakery).

Apr. 10, 1872—Southport Chronicle —

There will be a sociable at Washington Hall (Southport) on Thursday evening, April 11th, by the X. X. X. X. Club. Music by Starr's Quadrille Band, assisted by harp from New York. If stormy it will be held on the 12th. Tickets at the door.

Dec. 15, 1868—Southport Chronicle —

Mr. Papanti has opened a dancing school in Washington Hall. The class meets every Monday and Thursday evening. We understand that he already has quite a large number of scholars.

Apr. 10, 1872—Southport Chronicle —

The Mechanics Social Club of Fairfield will give their third grand ball on Friday evening, April 12, 1872, at the Town Hall. Music by Redgate and Willis full Orchestra. Tickets \$1 admitting gent and lady. Supper will be furnished at the Fairfield House. A good time may be expected.

Band Concerts too were a great source of enjoyment. The little green and white bandstand on the Mill Plain Green, where on Friday evenings, twice each month during the summer the Town Band played for an hour or so and brought happy hearts to many folk. The band practiced regularly 12 months of the year.

The Dec. 15, 1868 issue of the Southport Chronicle carried this item:

The Southport Cornet Band will give another Concert on the evening of January 1st. If it is as fine an entertainment as the last—and they anticipate a better one—those who attend will have no fault to find. Price of admission to a gentleman and lady one dollar.

There were Apple Bees too where after a bountiful supper all would sit around and peel apples for the hostess to dry.

These were the fun things of yesterday and very special events. One attended for the sociability and togetherness as much as for the event itself.



## CHAPTER 18

### INTERESTING NOTES

#### 1870 Selectman's Report:

The beautiful sign post upon the green it is proper to state, is the contribution of five private gentlemen and was erected without a single cent's expense to the Town.

\* \* \*

#### May 1868 *Southport Chronicle*

We notice that the row of huge old Buttonwoods on Main Street, Fairfield are being cut down. It seems almost a pity to remove such ancient "land marks", but they will give place no doubt to a more beautiful foliage.

\* \* \*

#### Dec. 15, 1868—Greens Farms item in Southport Chronicle:

The ground for the Depot at the "Farms" is being graded. The building is to be 24 feet by 30 feet. It will be a great convenience to the fruit raisers of the vicinity, saving them quite a distance in carting. It seems to be yet undecided whether trains will stop there for passengers or not. We don't see why our Greens Farms people will not require now a Church, a Post Office, and a store in that thriving Village—The Green.

\* \* \*

Bayberries were used for making tallow candles and by General Court order no berries were to be gathered before Sept. 10. Should they be gathered before this date a fine of 2s 6d was imposed for every peck taken before they were fully grown and ripe.

\* \* \*

Bayberry soap was very special too and here is a recipe for it—this recipe is over 100 years old.

2¼ lbs. white potash

5 qts. water

10 lbs. bayberry tallow

Boil over slow fire until it turns to soap.

Add 1 cup of cold water—boil 10 minutes more.

\* \* \*

Mrs. Lottie Burr told me that her grandmother made her own yeast. She had a garden of hop vines. Each year she gathered the hops, put them in a large vessel, poured boiling water over

them and let them stand for 1-2 hours. She then drained off the water and using heavy corn meal to thicken it and, adding a yeast cake from her last batch, then rolled out this dough-like mixture as thinly as she could. This was then cut into squares, and put into a flat basket-like tray to dry. The square basket was one that the Indians had made for her. When the yeast was dry, she stored it in a tin can and used the cakes as she needed them.

\* \* \*

Sanfire was a delicacy gleaned at the beach and looked for by all the folks here in the 1800's. There were beds of this grass in the salt meadows and it was gathered, taken home, cooked, and the center of the grass, which was like a thin thread, was pickled—and a rare delight. The thread-like center came right out I am told when the grass was cooked.

\* \* \*

In 1670 it was said that Major Nathan Gold was the richest inhabitant of Fairfield. He was an Assistant in the General Assembly for 36 years and one of the leading men in the Colony of Connecticut during the second half of the 17th century. On May 21, 1657 he was appointed Lieutenant of the 1st Troop of the Horse.

\* \* \*

There were five men from Fairfield in the French & Indian War.

\* \* \*

#### The Fairfield Advertiser—1884

Always speak well of your village. Strangers are apt to judge a place from the reputation the residents give it.

---

Last Friday the Southport Corkscrew Band paraded through the principal streets of our quiet village about 11 o'clock a "Skimerton" in honor of Mr. & Mrs. H. P. Henshaw.

---

It is suggested that the Southport boat club be revived and named the "Pequot Club".



On May 7, 1842 Southport withdrew its petition to be made a town.

\* \* \*

The Burr Mansion has had an illustrious group of visitors. Paul Revere stopped there as he brought the news of General Gage's March on Concord. John Hancock was married there. Washington stopped there on his way to Cambridge. Soldiers made it their stopping place to and from Boston. Benjamin Franklin stopped there as did David Humphrey, the U.S. Minister to Portugal and Spain. Daniel Dimon was the architect and builder of the present structure.

\* \* \*

Governor John Hancock supplied the glass and some of the lumber for the present Burr Mansion.

\* \* \*

1884 —

A public force pump has been placed in the well on the sign post square. The money to pay for this very great public convenience is being raised by subscription—the cost being \$15 of which Mr. William H. Johnson is collecting the subscriptions. McKeel and Jennings gave \$7.50. Only \$3 more is needed to pay for the pump.

\* \* \*

June 26, 1884—Traveling in the Air

Mr. Richard A. Proctor, the distinguished astronomer, holds that if the full power of the arms and legs can be so applied to ingeniously arranged mechanism as to work wings more or less resembling those of a bird, there is little reason of doubting man's power of sustaining himself in the air and even traveling with great rapidity through it. Probably, he adds, it will be much easier to sustain himself while traveling rapidly onward than while hovering over the same spot.

\* \* \*

An earthquake was felt all over town in August 1884—the steeple of Southport Congregational Church swayed visibly—an unusually high wave came ashore.

\* \* \*

January 3, 1793, I began Staples Free School in North Fairfield for 166 dollars per year—to board myself—kept only 5 months—it being removed to Weston by act of Assembly—donor being Staples of Weston—from William Wheeler's Journal.

\* \* \*

Rev. Andrew Elliot's books were burned on the Town Green. He was pastor of the Congregational Church at the time of the conflagration.

When Mr. Wakeman, the minister died, it was voted to distribute his books to the people—"at least one to each family".

\* \* \*

Dec. 15, 1868

Pieces in a bed quilt.—Mrs. D. B. Patten, Sweden Center, writes: "The last Rural stated that a California girl pieced a bed quilt with 2,601 pieces in it. I pieced one with 2,633. I never thought it worth putting in the paper, if you think it is you can do so. I do not like the idea of having New York beaten by California". —Exchange.

Neither is Connecticut to be beaten by either; as Mrs. Henry Sturges, Jr., of Southport, pieced one containing 4,760 pieces—The Chronicle.

\* \* \*

1840—Cure for sprained wrists—apply a solution of warm vinegar and salt for two days, then cider brandy and finally linament.

\* \* \*

Recipe for Rye Bread—Mrs. Lottie Burr's Mother's recipe (over 150 years old)

3 qts. of rye            1 qt. wheat  
a little tsp. shortening  
1 tsp. salt—level  
1 cup yeast mixed with flour to make a soft batter  
let rise until it bubbles  
knead twice

This yeast to was special for it was made like this:

take 2 white potatoes  
1 tbs. salt  
1 tbs. sugar  
Pour boiling water over it until it looks like starch  
1 cup is enough for 6 loaves of bread

\* \* \*

Wood was of course the early fuel and when the winter supply was gathered one family saved the large chips and used them as plates. As one side became soiled they turned them over and used the other and then put them in the fire. This took care of the dishwashing!

\* \* \*

Benjamin Banks who was driving his oxen as the British passed through the northern section of the Town was taken prisoner and taken along to Danbury. Jonathan Banks, his brother, was going from house to house notifying the neighbors that the British were coming when as he opened one door to go to the next house, he was met by the British soldiers—he too was a prisoner and taken along to Danbury.



At Wilson's Mill School in 1840 all of the boys sat on the right and the girls on the left. At a later time the teacher was Miss Sanford from Redding. She went home on the weekends and Monday mornings. Maude Wilson and Leora Wilson had to go over to school early and start the fire, for often the teacher was late because of bad traveling.

\* \* \*

In 1810 Penfield Inn was listed as a good Inn in Fairfield.

\* \* \*

### *Reminiscences of Mill Hill*

By one of the Sherwood's (Mrs. D. H. Short—1879)

I have been frequently asked what I know of the early history of Mill Hill so to those interested I give a few items in recollection of facts told me when a child.

Benjamin Sherwood, the first ancestor of whom I know anything owned Mill Hill—the entire circuit near five miles, and it is said he used to ride on horseback around it every day. His house stood on the knoll at the inside of gate entrance to Oak Lawn Cemetery. Their first son John lived on the Greenfield Hill Road near the eastern part of the cemetery. At his house the first Episcopal services were held in August 1779 soon after the burning of the Town, when the Church was destroyed. A Committee was appointed to call Mr. Philo Shelton (who was afterwards ordained the first of three by Bishop Seabury) and served the Church in Fairfield 40 years. He officiated in the house of John Sherwood until further provision was made.

The third son of John Sherwood married Anna Hull—the granddaughter of Solomon Sturges, Mill Plain, and built his house on Mill Hill about 1787 or 9—not quite sure. A few years since this was taken down, and replaced by a new one built by his grandson Benjamin L. Bulkley, lately deceased. When my grandfather built, there were two old houses near, one occupied by Mr. Bedient where the garden is now, and another nearly opposite by Mr. Foot. The lot when I was a child was called Footside and had been used as a bleaching ground for the linen spun by the girls—and the "Little Well" so called supplied water for the sprinkling. It is now enclosed for use by David H. Sherwood. Farther northwest at the angle of the Rock Road was a house built by Joseph Sherwood, a distant branch of the family. His son Reuben built a house down in the hollow, north. Another son Abel placed his at the head of Sherwood Avenue, which years ago was shaded by three rows of the ancient Sycamore, as the road was then wide enough to have one row in the centre. This house until recently was occupied by his son Burr Sherwood. Many have asked how he was related to us, and I have been told he was cousin to my great grandfather. Hull Sherwood, second son of Benjamin, built his house (went to housekeeping January 1, 1819 having married

Caroline Burr April 30, 1818) a few rods south of his father's, on land which has never been out of the family but descended to him. My grandmother used to tell us of an old wigwam, which stood where now is the garden of David H. Sherwood. I felt as if we might see some lurking Indian start up with tomahawk in hand and hear the war whoop once more disturb the peacefulness of our home. Another tale from her lips which interested us was the burning of our town, when she with others fled to the Great Rock as it was called (not the Boulder with the crack through it—farther west) on Mill Hill, looking toward the Sound, and witnessed the destruction of their dwellings, and valuables. Two tall poplar trees guarded the rock which oft I climbed and imagined what must have been a scene of horror—but who can portray it. The old landmarks decay and memories of older time will fade unless revived and cherished. The three sons of Hull Sherwood—my brothers—occupy their respective homes on paternal land and their children make the sixth generation from the original land owner, so at present the name is well sustained and may it ever be honored.

May someone write another chapter C. A. S.

\* \* \*

The boulder on the town green was brought from Osborn Hill in 1900 having been given by Mr. Frederick Sturges. It had been in a field on his property. The tablet having been placed upon it by the Eunice Dennie Burr Chapter D. A. R. to commemorate the settlement of Fairfield by Roger Ludlowe.

\* \* \*

Libraries have long been a part of Fairfield—the earliest would date back before 1817. There was one in Mill Plain in 1830. The By-Laws of this Library follow:

Mill Plain Library—Life Membership \$10.00  
Mill Plain Library By Laws:

1. No Book shall leave the Repository, nor be returned to it without a Cover.
2. Each member shall be responsible for penciling, torn or folded leaves, or other damage done to a book on his (or her) hands.
3. No book shall be Drawn except by a member, or one of his (or her) family, nor lent under any condition.
4. No book shall be absent from the Repository over Three Weeks, unless the member be fined three cents per day, or the drawing renewed. If the fine is not paid the membership shall be forfeited therewith.
5. Membership: \$1.00 per annum; commencing with any date.

Organizers—Jeremiah Sturges, Hezekiah Davis, Julius Pike, Simeon Sherwood, Joseph Bulkley.

\* \* \*

There was another in Fairfield Center called the Memorial Library. Its rules stated:



## Memorial Library—Fairfield, Conn.

This book can be kept two weeks, subject to the privilege of one renewal.

If this book is kept beyond the time allowed, a fine of Ten Cents a week will be incurred.

The Library will be open on Wednesdays from 3 to 5, and on Saturdays from 7 to 9 P.M.

Any damage to books must be made good at the holder's expense.

The payment of One Dollar yearly, entitles one, personally, or upon his written order, to draw one book at a time from the library.

The Library will be closed during the first two weeks in November for annual inspections, additions, etc.

This Library was organized in 1876 through the inspiration, leadership and financial generosity of Mr. Morris W. Lyon. Seven others joined Mr. Lyon in this initial effort. They were Rev. Samuel Osgood, the Rev. James K. Lombard, the Rev. Edward E. Rankin, Samuel Morehouse, Oliver B. Jennings, Henry W. Curtiss, John H. Glover and Aurin P. Somes. The library formally opened on December 27, 1876 in the Old Academy. Dr. Rankin was elected President and Articles of Incorporation were adopted a year later in August. Mr. Somes was appointed Librarian—without pay.

The year 1879 not only marked the 100th anniversary year, but also marked the year the little library could afford its first paid librarian. Mrs. Anne Nichols received the sum of \$25 for her services that year.

In August 1899, the enterprising Mr. Lyons began planning for a permanent building to house the growing library and again made a generous contribution. In 1892 Mr. Lyons was chosen President of the library corporation.

By 1897, the directors were seriously looking for land for the new building and the corner plot 100 feet by 100 feet opposite the store of Mr. Benjamin Betts was chosen.

July 31, 1902 was a happy day for the cornerstone of the long awaited building was officially laid and duly celebrated. Mr. Oliver G. Jennings laid the white marble cornerstone. On the 11th of June 1903 the building was dedicated and opened its doors to the public. A distinguished group indeed participated in the occasion. They were Professor Henry Fairfield Osborn of Columbia, Professor William Lyon Phelps of Yale, the Rev. Samuel Hart of the Connecticut Historical Society, the Honorable John H. Perry, President of the Pequot Library

Association and the Rev. Timothy Dwight, ex-President of Yale. Each spoke to the occasion with exhilarating tones. At this time the directors were: Morris W. Lyon, President; Rev. Frank S. Child, vice-president; Samuel Morehouse, Secretary; Oliver G. Jennings, Treasurer; Henry C. Sturges, Charles P. Jennings, Dr. W. H. Donaldson, Samuel C. Morehouse, Amory E. Rowland, the Rev. Allen Beeman, Samuel H. Wheeler and Henry S. Glover.

Through the generosity of Mr. Oliver Jennings, additional land was acquired in 1906 and about twenty-five years later the present office building was built. A year later the Historical Society wing was added and the Memorial Room was renovated and redecorated also through the kindness of Mr. Jennings. Pictorial maps, fine murals by Burleigh and scrolls and panels listing the names and vocations of early settlers gave this a charm and beauty it has retained today.

The Pequot Library building was presented to Fairfield by Mr. and Mrs. Elbert Monroe in 1894.

The Marquand house had been taken down and the Pequot Library building was quietly and mysteriously erected among the trees behind the house. In addition to the building, Mr. and Mrs. Monroe also gave many rare historical books and manuscripts. American History became the specialty of the Library. With the guidance of Rev. William H. Holman, Southport minister, the library obtained a notable collection of Americana.

This priceless collection of over 3000 rare books and manuscripts has been deposited at Yale University. The collection bears historically famous signatures such as Henry VIII, Queen Elizabeth I, James I, Governor William Bradford, George Washington, Adams, Madison, Thomas Jefferson and many others of equal stature—really documents and letters of the 15th through the 18th century.

The Pequot Library Association has loaned this collection and it is known as "The Monroe, Wakeman and Holman Loan Collection of the Pequot Library Association" at Yale.

The very first officers of The Pequot Library listed in April 1894 were: Hon. John H. Perry, President; Mr. George Bulkley, Vice-President; Mr. Charles O. Jelliff, Secretary; Mr. Oliver Bulkley, Treasurer. There were 22 regular members and 14 Honorary members.



*The regular members were:*

Rev. George C. Boswell	Mr. John H. Jennings
Miss C. Malvina Bulkley	Mrs. Wilbur C. Jennings
Mr. George Bulkley	Mr. Arthur M. Oakley
Mrs. Henry T. Bulkley	Dr. Curtis H. Osborne
Mr. Oliver Bulkley	Hon. John H. Perry
Rev. Edmund Guilbert D.D.	Mrs. Oliver H. Perry
Mr. Josiah Hawkins	Mr. E. Cornelius Sherwood
Rev. Wm. H. Holman	Mrs. Simon C. Sherwood
Mr. Charles O. Jelliff	Miss Augusta A. Smith
Mr. Alphonso P. Jennings	Miss Frances Wakeman
Mr. Arthur O. Jennings	Mr. Howard N. Wakeman

*The Honorary members were:*

Mrs. Julia A. Alvord	Mrs. Augustus Jennings
Mrs. David Bradley	Miss Emily Meeker
Mrs. Charles Bulkley	Mr. Ebenezer Monroe
Mrs. Edwin Bulkley	Mrs. Benjamin Pomeroy
Miss Harriet Dimon	Mrs. Henry Sturges
Mrs. Warren D. Gookin	Mrs. Maurice Wakeman
Mr. Francis Jelliff	Mrs. William W. Wakeman

\* \* \*

In 1858 there had been a Library in the Southport Public School—established by Frank D. Brainsmade from funds raised through exhibitions by the school children. This library had some 200 volumes. For 12 years prior to the opening of Pequot Library a reading room was maintained over Nehemiah Jennings' meat market on Water Street. This was in 1882 having some 60 periodicals and costing the village \$310 annually.

\* \* \*

The first Library on Greenfield Hill was organized in 1813 with Governor Gideon Tomlinson, Walter Bradley, David Hill, Rev. William Belden, Walter Nash, A. D. Baldwin, Daniel Wakeman and Gershom Wakeman among the initial subscribers to the \$2.50 shares. The yearly tax amounted to \$2.50. Some of the books listed in this early library were "Practical Piety", "Spectator", 8 volumes "Life of Calvin", "Vicar of Wakefield", etc.

\* \* \*

In 1830 another library was formed on the Hill and each member contributed \$5.00. Among their books were "Arnott's Physics", "Phrenology", "Gibbon's Romer", "Geology".

\* \* \*

In 1887 the Greenfield Hill Library Association was formed. The rules of the library were:

The Library shall be kept in the Academy, and will be open on the last Monday evening before the full of the moon in every month. The books shall be returned at the commencement of the next monthly meeting: but if not returned till after the drawing of the books has begun a fine of two cents will be due. If not returned during the next monthly

meeting, there will be a fine of ten cents for the first and twenty cents for each additional month's delinquency. Whoever shall injure, deface or lose any books is liable to a fine, or to pay for the full value thereof. Any member who loans a book out of his or her place of abode or business forfeits fifty cents for each such offense.

The terms of the membership were \$1.00 and the books were kept in the Academy. The enclosed shelves of books on either side of the stage having been a familiar site to all those who met there. Mrs. Joseph Bradley was librarian and Frank Brown assisted her in finding the books and returning them to the shelves.

\* \* \*

In 1863 a peace flag was raised on the hill where Mr. and Mrs. Fred Crunden live now at the corner of North St. and Redding Road as a gesture toward stopping the Civil war. It seems that there was a group of Democrats living in the vicinity — several families — and they were against the war. I have been told that another group, headed by Simon Banks from Southport, came up to take the flag down. There was a good bit of speech making and excitement and it took several hours to calm the group. At length however the peace flag was lowered and Old Glory was raised in its place. A salute of 20 shots was fired—one for each state in the Union and all ended friendly and well. Mr. William G. Sherwood has one of the guns that was used. It belonged to his great grandfather Joseph Sherwood.

\* \* \*

People about 1800 moved their household goods by ship—from Mill River to Black Rock. Average house rent of the time was \$2.50 per month.

\* \* \*

From Jonathan Bulkley's diary at Pequot Library—1802-1858

Sunday afternoon Capt. Bulkley & wife walked to meeting this afternoon and it was hot enough to kill a fellow but the sermon was sufficiently good to compensate for the trouble of going there.

April 27, 1807

Cure for the Cancer. Take the narrow leaved dock root and boil it in water till it is quite soft then bathe the part expected in the water as hot as can be borne three or four times in a day. The root must be mashed and applied as a poultice.

May 20, 1810—

This day Mrs. James Bulkley commenced pasturing her cow in my lot to be paid in milk at 9 quarts per week sent to us.



Feb. 4, 1803 —

A bet was laid on Peter Squire to go from William Buckley's Store in Mill River to Ebenezer Banks in Hulls Farms in 30 minutes which he performed in 26 minutes and gained the bet which was One dollar (said Squire was on foot).

The course of Sasco Creek was turned about the 1st of April 1813 by Greens Farms Inhabitants to run several rods—say 40 eastward from its original channel, the reason assigned for this was to help their salt meadows. Sasco Creek filled up a few weeks after and opened the old way.

Thursday Oct 1, 1812—

This day Mr. Belden was ordained at Greenfield by unanimous consent of the Society—a very pleasant day and a great collection of people to witness the solemn scene.

Oct. 30, 1810—

The farmers are completely caught this fall with their corn all in the field. Their apples not half gathered, their potatoes in the same situation and all are frightened and unprepared at the early approach of winter.

Aug. 29, 1812—

Arrived from N. Y. with a Mr. Belden, Priest of Greenfield Society.

Tuesday Dec. 10, 1805—

Yesterday was our annual town meeting. The number collected was about four hundred. They chose Seamour Tailor as moderator of the meeting; Samuel Rowland as Town Clerk; and John Hull, Seamour Tailor, Hezekiah Nichols, Gershom Wakeman and Aaron Hubbel as Selectmen, Doc't David Hull as Town Treasurer, Nathan Beers Jun., Samuel Beers, Buckingham Sherwood, Ralph Sherwood, Iemas Davis, Noah Bradley and Gould Allen as Constables, Buckingham Sherwood as State Collector.

Nov. 29, 1805 —

This evening all Mill River Co. went to Samuel Morehouse's to a ball. Ebenezer Dimon, Jeremiah Sturges, Jonathan Bulkley, Andrew Bulkley, Eunice Thorp, Miranda Thorp, Marietta Sturges, Polly Perry, Betsey Perry, Polly Sherwood, Eunice Bradley—we had an excellent Ball with about 50 ladies and 35 gentlemen. Walter Sherwood and John Osborn managers.

The story goes that the big rock which posed on the left hand side of Brookside Drive as one goes up the S-hill after crossing the Mill River bridge was a place where the Indians held their Council Meetings.

Rooster River was used for Trapping by the Indians of the area.

Soldiers hid in the chimney of the old Sally Banks house on Banks North Road at the time of the Revolutionary War. This house was 206 years old when the house burned some years ago.

The story is told of the family silver being hidden in the wall at the Samuel Treadwell house on Redding Road. When the British were known to be approaching they cut a hole in the wall, put the silver in and then plastered up the hole again.

Joseph Sherwood was taken prisoner on Greenfield Hill by the British and marched to Easton. He was very lame and complained that he was unable to march—they left him at Jesse Wakeman's place.

The New Haven Gazette—March 6, 1788

A Mathematical Question —

A body one mile high is let fall at the same time that a cannon is discharged half a mile from the place where the body is to fall. At what height will the sound meet the falling body?

Answer—The sound will meet the falling body at the height of about 4,893 feet.

Penmanship—Wanted: a Penman of the first Abilities—Enquire at this office—from the Connecticut Journal, 1785.

Mr. Walter Jennings told me about going to Plattsville every Friday to see the stage coach come in with the mail. In the Spring it would have 4 horses on it and sometimes there would be passengers aboard. It went right up Sport Hill Road on its way to Redding.

1886—"Mr. Leonard Clark, keeper of the Black Rock Light, has been appointed custodian of the Fairfield Bar, by Commodore Benham with orders to prevent the removal of stones from the bar".

In 1800 it was said that there were 12 Pequot Indians remaining in the area and together they owned about 20 acres.

In 1760 there was but one pleasure carriage in Stratfield but by 1800 there were 35.



The Advertiser—Oct. 21, 1886

*Arrival and Departure of Mails*

Mails arrive at and depart from the Southport Post Office as follows, Mails close for New York and stations West at 6:30 and 9:50 a.m.; 2:45 and 6:10 p.m.

Mails close for stations East at 6:30 and 9:50 a.m. and 6:10 p.m.

Mails arrive from New York and the West at 7:35 and 10:00 a.m. and 6:35 p.m.

Mails arrive from the East at 7:35 a.m. and 3:25 p.m. Office hours from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Mail from Greenfield arrives at 10 a.m. and closes for Greenfield at 10:10 a.m.

N. Jennings, P. M.

\* \* \*

*Traveler's Guide*

New York, New Haven & Hartford R. R.

Taking effect October 3, 1886

Trains leave Southport as follows:

Going East	Going West
6:50 A.M.	5:59 A.M.
7:48 "	6:49 "
9:02 "	7:24 "
11:13 "	8:12 "
2:04 P.M.	9:21 "
4:49 "	11:28 "
5:25 "	12:41 P.M.
5:57 "	1:48 "
6:33 "	4:50 "
8:09 "	6:35 "
8:43 "	7:20 "
10:00 "	11:03 "

Sundays	Sundays
8:20 A.M.	8:55 A.M.
9:58 "	5:55 "
7:09 P.M.	8:12 P.M.

Trains arrive at Greens Farms 5 minutes earlier. Trains arrive at Fairfield 4 minutes later.

Trains arrive at Fairfield 4 minutes later. Trains arrive at Greens Farms 5 minutes later.

Wm. H. Stevenson, Superintendent

\* \* \*

The Advertiser—Oct. 21, 1886

**SHIPPING NEWS**

*Arrived*

Friday—Schooner Mary Elizabeth.

Sunday—Schooners George Edwin, Sarah A. Falconer, and Sloop Irene.

Wednesday—Schooner Anna Brown, and Sloop Richard Udall.

*Cleared*

Saturday—Schooner Mary Elizabeth.

Monday—Sloop Irene.

Wednesday—Schooners George Edwin and Sarah A. Falconer.

\* \* \*

Y. A. A. F. C.

The Advertiser—Oct. 21, 1886

A large and enthusiastic meeting of Yale graduates was held on Wednesday at Greenfield Hill at the residence of Rev. G. S. Plumley<sup>1</sup> to organize an Alumni Association for Fairfield county and vicinity.

The meeting was called to order by Rev. Mr. Plumley at 10:15 who delivered an address of welcome. A statement of the object of the meeting and of the (proposed) Association was made by Rev. A. N. Lewis of Westport.

The Rev. Timothy Dwight,<sup>2</sup> President of Yale College, was received "with three time three", and made an address upon the condition of the college, expressing, also, his approval of the Association and its objects. Various committees were appointed, and speeches were made by the graduates in favor of the proposed organization. Rev. Samuel Scoville of Stamford read an excellent paper on "Social Life in Yale College", which was received with enthusiastic applause. Old and new songs were sung, and the hours flew by until dinner, which was elegantly served under the direction of Mrs. Plumley and her daughter, Mrs. Dr. Phillips of Bridgeport.

After dinner the alumni were escorted to the residence of Frederick Bronson, Esq., where they were shown about the grounds and the famous creamery.

At 2:45 p.m. the meeting reassembled for business. The Committee on Constitution, Messrs. Plumley, Lewis, and Candee, reported a plan for organization which was adopted. The following officers were elected:

President, Rev. G. S. Plumley, Greenfield; Vice-presidents, Rev. Samuel Scoville, Stamford; D. F. Hollister, Bridgeport; F. St. J. Lockwood, Norwalk; Lyman D. Brewster, Danbury; Secretary-Treasurer, Rev. A. N. Lewis, Westport; Executive Committee, Rev. R. G. S. McNeille, Bridgeport; T. H. Porter, Stamford; Morris B. Beardsley, Bridgeport.

The next meeting is to be held at Bridgeport, January 18, 1887.

An interesting paper was read by Col. Sherwood of Englewood, N. J.

Great praise is due to Rev. and Mrs. Plumley, and to Frederick Bronson, Esq., who spared no pains to make the gathering a success.

\* \* \*

From Cyrus Sherwood Bradley's scrapbook:

St. Paul's Church Fairfield was so named because Paul was imprisoned. The Church building having been built on the foundation of the old jail—This from Mrs. Carrie E. Bunnell.

<sup>1</sup> Pastor of Greenfield Hill Congregational Church.

<sup>2</sup> Descendant of Rev. Timothy Dwight who was pastor of Greenfield Hill Congregational Church 1783-1795.



In 1908 there were 8 churches in Fairfield, 3 Congregational, 2 Episcopal, 1 Roman Catholic, 1 Baptist and 1 Methodist.

\* \* \*

The quarterly courts for Fairfield County were appointed to be at Fairfield on the third Wednesday in March, June, September, and December.

\* \* \*

A Military Order—Fairfield, August 7, 1777

Sir: Pursuant to general orders you are hereby ordered to warn my company to appear at the usual place of Parade as soon as possible with their arms and ammunition. The enemy are on their march from New York and are near Byram by this time—make all the speed you can. The corporal and sergeant are ordered to assist you.

Per order  
George Burr Capt.

\* \* \*

1778—A Military Permit

Royal White—a nine months man hath liberty to have his guns and bayonet with him. They being his own property.

\* \* \*

One of the very first pieces of road equipment of the town—a steam roller—is buried on Sherman Street. It went through the road there and it was buried there.

\* \* \*

May 8, 1813

Salt Petre is now making by the side of the River at Mill Plain—from Joseph Bulkley's diary.

\* \* \*

The best oat straw was saved for the mattresses and then on top of this went the feather beds.

\* \* \*

Joel Barlow, poet and Statesman, was born in Fairfield before his parents removed to Redding and his name is commemorated in Barlow's Plain—or Barlow Road.

\* \* \*

Mr. Osborn, who lived on North Benson Road where Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Lonsdale live now had two beautiful daughters whom he locked up in a closet whenever Aaron Burr was in Town or rode by.

\* \* \*

Holland Hill received its name from Daniel Silliman who was an emigrant from Holland. Thus he called it "Holland Hill".

\* \* \*

In the Powder House a man was imprisoned for misconduct. While he was in there, he drew

his knife across the stone wall to see if it would spark. The officers valued the powder and since they feared an explosion they let him go free.

\* \* \*

A medical doctor's fee in Fairfield in 1880 was about 25¢ per visit.

\* \* \*

Smallpox had long been a dreaded scourge of these people and permission had to be given each year for the inoculations to be given to those inhabitants who desired it. Some years it was granted, some years it was not.

In 1791 it was voted "that the Town would not grant liberty for the inoculation of the Smallpox in this Town". The following year liberty was granted to inoculate against Smallpox between March 5 and April 1 and soon a hospital was voted, to be established in each Society to permit inoculation against Smallpox. In 1796 inoculations were permitted from January 1—April 1.

One wonders about these hospitals being set up in each Society—or each Parish. I have been told that the Seth Sherwood house, the first house on the left side of Catamount Road just west of Redding Road where Mr. and Mrs. M. Kenneth Cooper now live, was a hospital during this period, and also that the Parmelee House on Clapboard Hill in Stratfield, was a hospital about this same time. They may have been used for the purposes of inoculations or for something else, no one is sure.

\* \* \*

## PRIVATE SCHOOLS

I have already mentioned the Fairfield Female Seminary which, of course, was a private school. There were others in town from time to time. At one time a school for little children was kept in the Town Hall by Miss Woodhull. Miss Jerusha Cornwall conducted a Kindergarten in Southport about 1848 and later taught a school for older children. Miss Malvina Bulkley taught a school for older children about the same time and there was Miss Cornwall's Kindergarten in a house opposite the Pequot Inn. There was another small school over on Westway Road and undoubtedly there were others in this area.

In 1783 the Rev. Timothy Dwight was called to become pastor of the Greenfield Hill Church. It was not long before his energy and enthusiasm led him to establish a private school at the home of Gershom Hubbell (now the home of Mr. and Mrs. John L. D. Peters). Mr. Hubbell had a



large room on the southeast side of the house which he had used as a leather shop. In 1786 with the help of some friends, the Rev. Dwight built the Dwight Academy on the part of the Common where Dwight School stands today. This building was a one-story building and housed as many as 50 or 60 pupils at one time. Here the Rev. Dwight spent six hours each day, and older boys and girls studied Latin, Greek, Calculus, Surveying and Navigation. Students came from many states in the southern and central parts of our Country, as well as from Canada, South America and France. Well over 1000 students worked under Dr. Dwight, and many of these later became leaders of their time.

In 1795 Dr. Dwight was called from Greenfield Hill to become president of Yale. It has been said that the trustees of Yale called Dr. Dwight to its head for fear the Academy might one day eclipse the College. Dr. Jeremiah Day succeeded Dr. Dwight and he, too, later became president of Yale. A long line of illustrious teachers followed, but the popularity of the school waned with the years, and according to Barber's History written in 1835 "It was a respectable institution for ladies".

In 1854 the old Academy was pulled down and the timbers used in the barn of Uriah Perry (now the property of Mr. and Mrs. Paul R. Rill). The weathervane was also planned and erected. This building makes up the northeast corner of the present Dwight School which is currently standing. The money for its construction was raised primarily by the sale of some property. There were two stories in this new structure. The first floor was used as the district school and the upper floor as a private school. The older children who wished to work in the select school on the second floor could do so for a fee of \$5 a term.

In 1800 in Stratfield there was one Academy supported by the scholars with the price of board being from \$81 to \$121.

In 1802 a group of people decided to start an Academy in Fairfield proper. This building, just recently moved from the west side of St. Paul's Church on the Old Post Road to the South side of the Church and west of the Town Hall, was completed in 1804. Jonathan Sturges, Andrew Eliot, David Judson, Nathan Beers, Jr., and Samuel Rowland were chosen trustees. Mr. William Stoddard was the first teacher of the Academy and there was an initial enrollment of about sixty boys and girls.

By 1806 there were two teachers, the one to receive \$500 for the year's work and the assistant \$250 for the same period. A youngster might attend the school by paying \$4.50 for a twelve months' period.

The Old Academy was saved from burning by two alert young ladies when they reported one evening at homework time, "Miss White, I saw a boy who was caring for the stove in the school-room throw with the ashes a good many big, live coals into the barrel in the closet just before school closed, and don't you think it was dangerous"?

Miss White put on her wraps, went to Miss Mary Hobart's and the two ladies with a lantern and the door key went to the school although it was a very cold night and about nine o'clock. There, they unlocked the door of the lower room and found in the closet under the stairs of the girls' entrance, the ash barrel just ready to burst into flame. They opened the outside door of the closet and by their combined efforts the barrel was hurled out of the door into the deep snow and the building was saved from complete destruction.

This school continued until 1884 with varying degrees of attendance and prosperity. In 1866 the price of tuition was increased to \$10 a quarter when Greek or Latin or higher mathematics were taught, \$8 for higher English branches, and \$4 for the Primary Department.

The building was used for prayer meetings, a singing school, etc., when school was not in session.

In 1875 it was voted that the lower room of the Academy be granted for the use of the Fairfield Memorial Library.

In 1882 a Miss William was allowed to have a private school in the Academy building provided she pay the tax and others followed her, conducting their own schools for one period or another in the building, but soon after this, the building's use as a school was discontinued.

The Academy Bell which brought the children in for long school hours was an object of hostility with the boys and many schemes were formulated to disable it. More than once the tongue of the bell was thrown into the pond. Once the youngsters tied a string to it and carrying it to the upper floor of Mr. Jones' house, at midnight began to toll the bell. As the neighbors were awakened and gathered about to find the cause, they were mystified for a good while before the string was discovered.



The now filled pond near the school afforded skating and sliding in the winter and wading, sailing or rafting in the summer. Flocks of geese also frequented it.

The boys and girls of the school played Marbles, Fen Slips and Fen Dubs. One Old Cat, Two Old Cat Baseball, I Spy the Wolf, Hop Scotch, Snap the Whip, Mumble the Peg, Beetle and Wedge, and Jump Rope.

The school day ran from nine to twelve in the morning, resumed at two and continued until five o'clock in the afternoon.

Miss Augusta Smith's Seaside Seminary on Pequot Road in Southport was a popular private institution for girls in 1872. The Southport Chronicle carried this advertisement on August 16, 1872:

SEASIDE  
SEMINARY

SOUTHPORT, CONNECTICUT

A BOARDING AND DAY SCHOOL FOR  
YOUNG LADIES AND MISSES

The Fourth term of this school will begin on  
Monday, April 22d.

As a FRENCH TEACHER resides in the family,  
advantage will thereby accrue to the French student.

MISS AUGUSTA SMITH  
PRINCIPAL

Jonathan Bulkley made these entries in his diary:

Friday, March 10th, 1815, Mr. Haul of Weston has this day had his public exhibition 30 schollars who performed to the admiration of the whole audience which was very large, Mrs. Pike's house was crowded and what was most laughable was that Jonathan Sturges and Burritt Sherwood acted the part of negro slaves and that they did extremely well—the schollars and the young people had a ball in the evening.

January 18, 1819 —

There is taught in this place (Mill River) this winter a writing school—15 days for 3 dollars—kept at Mr. Pike's.

Hull Sherwood reported: December 21, 1813 —“In the evening I attend the night school which commenced last evening”.

There were others in more recent years. The Hargrove School, a private school active in 1909 and standing on the Old Post Road not far from the Town Green offered a Preparatory Course of two years for boys.

Miss Imogene Bradin, daughter of an Episcopal minister, started a private school in a house on Old South Road in Southport in 1924

for youngsters in Nursery School through Grade 4. Miss Bradin, who had grown up in Hartford and Middletown, had received her training in Europe and had a long and varied experience including helping to start one of the first Montessori Schools in New York. In the 1930's as her group grew larger she confined her course to the Nursery, Kindergarten and First Grade in a house on Willow Street. She continued with these levels of teaching until June 1956 when she closed her school. Mrs. J. Saltonstall Roberts and Mrs. Philip Stapley taught with Miss Bradin for many years.

The Fairfield Country Day School was founded in 1936 by Laurence W. Gregory on Unquowa Road in Fairfield just across from Roger Ludlowe High School. In 1941 it was incorporated and in November 1949 it moved to Greenfield Hill. The School had purchased the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Staber which had been the spacious main house of the Bronson Estate on Bronson Road and the historic site of the home of Dr. Timothy Dwight. The school covers Kindergarten, Grades one through six and Forms I through III—Kindergarten through Grade 9. William B. Ely III is the headmaster at the present time. There are 162 boys in attendance at the school.

The Unquowa School was established in 1917 by a group of parents as a small independent elementary school. The organizing body included Mr. and Mrs. William J. Grippin, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Brewer, Mrs. Dudley M. Morris, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Hincks, Mrs. Samuel M. Hawley, Mrs. Sanford Stoddard and Frank C. Hunt. The school is located on Stratfield Road just south of the intersection of Montauk Street—which was also the original site. The school is co-educational and currently offers a Kindergarten through Grade 12 program. John W. Suter Jr. is the Headmaster.

\* \* \*

This copy of the Connecticut Hymn of the Flag by Mabel Osgood Wright was given to me by Mrs. Lena Schwartz Williams to use in this writing.

July Fourth, 1916

THE CONNECTICUT HYMN OF THE FLAG

By Mabel Osgood Wright

North, South, East and West,  
Rise and join your hands.  
Native born and Brothers drawn  
From many Fatherlands.



Rise ye People of the Dawn!  
 Land where Liberty was born;  
 Ye who fear no ruler's nod,  
 Ye who only kneel to God  
 Rise! Salute Your Flag!

North, South, East and West  
 Bring your tribute then.  
 Gold ye have, and grain enough  
 To feed earth's starving men.

Ye who tent on distant shores  
 Ye whose names the ocean roars.  
 Ye who toil in mine and field,  
 Ye who pluck the cotton's yield,  
 Rise! Salute Your Flag!

Chorus:

Stars upon its azure throng,  
 Stars for States that stride along,  
 Stars of Hope that make men strong.  
 Blood-red bars for battles done.  
 Steel-white bars for peace well won.  
 Rise! Salute This Flag!

North, South, East and West,  
 Rise and join your hands;  
 Native born and brother's drawn  
 From many Fatherlands.

One ye stand in common cause,  
 One to break oppression's laws,  
 One to open Freedom's gates,  
 One! Ye re-United States.  
 Rise! Defend Your Flag.

\*Chorus:

Stars upon its azure throng,  
 Stars for states that stride along,  
 Stars of Hope that make men strong.  
 Blood-red bars for battles done,  
 Steel-white bars for peace well won.  
 Rise! Defend This Flag!

\*All are asked to join in Final Chorus

\* \* \*

### TO SAMP MORTAR ROCK

Speak! silent rock and tell me thy mysterious tale,  
 Since first by Titian hands, thy massive form was  
 shaped!  
 Tell me how, with her awful might, the mother earth,  
 Forth from her throbbing breast, thy granite cliffs  
 did toss?  
 Tell me how, since through all the flight of untold  
 years  
 Thou still art firm, as when the myriad hosts of  
 heaven  
 Looked down from their far heights upon thy won-  
 drous birth!  
 O tell me did the sea once bathe thy rugged face,  
 And in his gentler moods regale thy lonely hours  
 With many a sweet refrain and story of the deep,  
 Or else, in wild despair, dark 'gainst thy trembling  
 front,  
 And, foaming, tear thy breast with frenzied rage!  
 And if the fickle deep was once thy bosom friends—  
 Tell me, did not thy walls the sea-bird make a home,

And there protection find, where she could raise her  
 young,  
 And rest secure—a wanderer from the dreary waste.  
 All this and more I'd learn of thee but thou art dumb,  
 And to my grave appeal, give shocking echoes back.  
 I know that thou hast looked upon another race,  
 Perchance have heard their touching story—know  
 their fate.

Alas, 'tis sad indeed! and now that they are gone,  
 And never more shall look upon their ancient home,  
 We weep for them, and mourn too late—their cruel  
 end

The mortar on thy brow—immortal legacy—  
 When they were won't to grind their corn, alone  
 remains,

Do tell the hapless tale to each succeeding age.  
 And as I gaze upon thy brow, all mossed with age.  
 The part, with magic brush, steals through my  
 thoughts space,

And paints a varied scene, yet not untouched with  
 gloom.

For here, within this sheltered dell, have come and  
 gone

The beauties of unnumbered years—whose souls  
 still live,

And never from the thoughts of men shall fade away;  
 But thou with all thy grandeur still undimmed remains  
 A lasting monument to the fleeting forms of earth!  
 O, wondrous rock! Majestic in thy granite might!  
 Forever fronting with thy naked brow the heavens  
 All set with burning suns and swept by furious gales—  
 A tireless watcher o'er the jeweled crown of earth.

W. Barlow Hill (1863-1898)  
 Greenfield Hill, Conn.

(W. Barlow Hill was a school teacher)

\* \* \*

The story goes that there was a Coffin factory  
 on the little stream on Governor's Lane at one  
 time.

\* \* \*

### From Town Meeting Minutes —

June 5, 1705

There not being a sufficient number of the In-  
 habitants convened at ye said meeting by reason of  
 the extremity of the weather, which meeting is  
 therefore adjourned to the next Friday about 2 of  
 the clock in ye afternoon.

\* \* \*

December 21, 1713

Captain Moses Dimon, Philip Lewis and the  
 Widow Temperance Hubbell are chosen Tavern  
 Keepers.

December 9, 1727

It was voted at said meeting that for the future  
 the warning of this Society Meeting shall be by put-  
 ting up three notes as the law directs, one at the  
 bridge known by said name of Silliman bridge, one  
 on the post by said Meeting House and one at the  
 Corner called Whelpless Corner at said Mill Plain.



At Gallows Hill, there was a quarry where stone was crushed for the railroad bed of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad. Handy and Harman currently stands there.

\* \* \*

Mail box rent at the various Post Offices was 13¢ for 3 months or 52¢ a year. Later when carriers for routes were established they had to furnish their own horse and wagon. The first routes were 6, 9, 10. The salary of the first carriers was \$450 a year.

\* \* \*

## COURSE OF STUDY, PUBLIC SCHOOLS FAIRFIELD, CONN.

### COURSE IN ARITHMETIC—ADOPTED 1905

GRADE I—Notation and numeration to 20 in Arabic, to 12 in Roman. Facts to 10 in addition, then in subtraction; then to 20 in addition. Teach addition facts BEFORE teaching counting, and allow no counting in learning addition and subtraction. Rather, teach these facts as facts without objects, but with plenty of rapid card and blackboard drill. After the addition facts are well grounded, teach subtraction as reverse addition. No multiplication except by 2's, this deduced from addition, and no division whatever.

Teach objectively; dozen, half dozen, quart, pint, foot, inch, cent, nickel, dime, day, week, month, seasons. In all primary number work, attempt little or no verification or reasoning; make the work vital by creating in your pupils conscious power to add and subtract promptly and correctly, both in abstract examples and in plenty of interesting problems often made up by the pupils themselves.

GRADE II—Thorough review of first year's work. Notation and numeration to 200 in Arabic, to 50 in Roman. Facts to 50 in addition, THEN in subtraction, which is to be treated as reverse addition. Adding rapidly short columns of numbers to three figures. Subtracting numbers with subtrahend to four figures, always as reverse addition; that is, by ADDING to the subtrahend the desired remainder and thereby securing as the sum the minuend. This process of subtraction requires no borrowing, but carrying as in addition. Multiplication through 3 times, THEN division as reverse multiplication. Short division

through 3. Much rapid card and blackboard drill.

Teach objectively; pound, gallon, bushel, peck, minute, hour, day, month, year, quarter dollar, half dollar, dollar. Have children make and solve many sensible concrete problems, involving the number facts so far learned, such problems as might come up in their daily living. Insist on neat, orderly work with a definite form of arrangement.

GRADE III—Thorough review of second year's work. Arabic notation and numeration to millions, Roman to 600. All facts in addition, THEN in subtraction as reverse addition. Counting rapidly, by means of addition, to 100 by 2's, 3's, etc., to 12's, and then backwards from 100 to 0. Much drill on rapid addition of columns and in subtraction where carrying is necessary. The times tables complete, THEN division as reverse multiplication. Much rapid card and blackboard drill on all fundamental combinations. Multiply with two or more figures in the multiplier. Complete short division.

While much drilling on abstract numbers in acquiring the fundamental combinations is necessary the third year, keep it all in touch with practical living and possible every day dealings such as the pupils can appreciate. Hence, by means of numerous concrete problems made up by pupils and by teacher, show plainly the value of the technical work so far mastered. Continue neat, orderly arrangement of work.

GRADE IV—Thorough review of third year's work. Complete Arabic and Roman notation and numeration. Gain further accuracy and speed in the fundamental operations. Continue rapid card and blackboard drill, and give plenty of examples to be solved without using a pencil. Begin "Wentworth's Elementary Arithmetic", or equivalent, and complete long division, United States money, factors, multiples, and addition and subtraction of easy fractions.

Have the pupils make up many problems and solve them. Insist on neat, orderly arrangement of all written work.

GRADE V—Thorough review of fourth year's work. Increase accuracy and speed in the four operations. Complete fractions, paying special attention to the fractional parts of a dollar.



Teach thoroughly cancellation and have the pupils use it whenever practicable. Addition and subtraction of decimals. Give much technical and concrete work. Have pupils bring into class and solve many practical problems. Continue rapid work with cards and circles, and give much "mental arithmetic". Complete Wentworth's "Elementary Arithmetic", or equivalent. Continue neat, orderly written work.

GRADE VI—Thorough review of past year's work. Increase accuracy and speed in the four operations. Continue rapid drill work and mental arithmetic. Begin Wentworth's "Practical Arithmetic", or equivalent. Review carefully United States money and applications. Complete decimals and master their inter-relations with fractions. Take the tables of weights and measures with their simpler applications. Percentage on pages 206-216 and 223-229 in the "Practical Arithmetic", but omitting every other example. Plenty of sensible concrete problems made up and solved by the pupils. Accept only neat orderly work at the board or when handed in by the pupils.

GRADE VII—Review essentials of past year's work. Complete Compound Quantities and Measurements, pages 148-192, and the Metric System pages 277-287 in the "Practical Arithmetic". To insure a practical mastery of the Metric System, review Long Measure and then teach the metric units of length, pointing out similarities in the two tables. Likewise, treat Square Measure and the metric units of surface, Cubic Measure, and the metric units of volume, Liquid and Dry Measures and the metric units of capacity, and Avoirdupois and Troy Weights and the metric units of weight. Take percentage on pages 206-229 in the "Practical Arithmetic". Many sensible problems made up and solved by the pupils. Continue rapid drill work and mental arithmetic. Insist on all work being neat and orderly.

GRADE VIII—Review essentials of past year's work. Complete Measurements, Percentage, Proportion, Powers and Roots. Take in Appendix to "Practical Arithmetic" Repeating Decimals, Supplementary Measurements, and the G. C. M. and the L. C. M. of fractions. Review thoroughly and, so far as is practicable, topically, the whole field of arithmetic. As an aid to the topical review, see David Eugene Smith's *Arithmetics*. Analyze and solve many difficult problems. After

the Easter vacation, use the Regents' Question Book, or equivalent. Give many written tests, and in other ways prepare definitely for the Bridgeport examinations. Throughout the year continue some rapid drill work and mental arithmetic. See that all written work is neat and orderly.

## COURSE OF STUDY—ADOPTED 1905, in ENGLISH and PENMANSHIP

### ENGLISH

GRADE I—Capital letters at the beginning of sentences and in proper names, period and question mark, and comma after yes and no. Have the children copy accurately and neatly selected sentences from the board. Require silent reading, followed by oral reproduction, in the reading class, as a valuable aid in language. Likewise, the spelling lessons, where sentences are to be written, should be made language lessons. Read and tell such stories as the pupils can appreciate, and several days afterwards require an oral reproduction. Draw the pupil into conversation on every possible occasion, and make each lesson a language lesson.

GRADE II—Oral reproduction of interesting stories, answers and questions to be in complete form; correct use of is, are, was, were, have, has, see, saw, did, done. Keep correct forms of most common errors on chart for frequent drill. Observe simple rules for capital letters. Have children copy accurately and neatly sentences from board and from their readers. In this and the following grades, teach at least two new descriptive words each week and have the pupils add these to their vocabulary by frequent correct use.

GRADE III—Much dictation and oral reproduction. Continue the work of the previous grades. Teach the correct use of saw, seen, went, gone, sit, sat, gave, given. Teach the common abbreviations and the use of the apostrophe. The second half of the year, follow "The Mother Tongue, Book I", through the first 30 pages, the book being in the teacher's hands. Continue the teaching of descriptive words, at least two a week. Keep the correct forms of common errors on a chart for frequent drill.

GRADE IV—"The Mother Tongue, Book I", pages 31 to 184, with some exercises omitted. The book to be owned by the pupil. Study of



choice prose and poetry selections and of famous pictures. Frequent oral and written reproductions and descriptions. Simple story telling, narration and letter writing. Punctuation marks and capitals. Various kinds of simple sentences. Continue the teaching of new descriptive words and the drill on correct forms of common errors of speech.

GRADE V—"The Mother Tongue, Book I", pages 185 to 316, with some exercises omitted. The parts of speech, simple sentences, subject, predicate, and modifiers. Continue the work in dictation to secure accuracy and dispatch in punctuation, use of capitals, spelling and paragraphing. Letter writing should be continued, with considerable original work. Accept only carefully composed and neatly written compositions. Oral reproduction should form an important part of the language work for this year to secure fluency of expression.

GRADE VI—"Higher Lessons in English." Lessons 1 to 23, 85, 87 to 91, and 24 to 30, 32 to 35, and 92 to 99. In this work, the more difficult sentences should be omitted in Grades VI, and VII; and even in Grade VIII it is wise to omit occasionally an abstruse sentence. Do not exhaust the subject the first time over, but leave some new applications for the review work. While we are obliged to teach much technical grammar in the last three grammar grades, let us still keep our pupils in touch with the constructive and the aesthetic sides of our language.

GRADE VII—"Higher Lessons in English." Lessons 31, 37 to 58, 112 to 126, and 59 to 74 and 100 to 111. Take especial pains to make the work interesting and of practical value to your pupils. Make plain to them the vital importance of the technical as a foundation in all arts, especially in that of language. In order to make this work of most importance, have your pupils do as much constructive work as possible and criticize this themselves, thus using their knowledge of grammar. Also, have them reproduce choice selections, imitating the author's style, and afterwards compare their own effort with the original and criticize grammatically and rhetorically.

GRADE VIII—"Higher Lessons in English." Lessons 28 to 58, 132 to 142, and 37 to 84, 112 to 142 and 143 to 168. See suggestions in Grades

VI and VII. Give many written tests and prepare for the Bridgeport examination.

## LITERATURE

This is a part of the course in English. While the outline given below is subject to change, if teachers so desire, still it will serve as a guide to logical work. Each grade should study appreciatively and memorize at least two poems selected from the lists of their respective year.

GRADES I TO III—Poets—Eugene Field and H. W. Longfellow. Poems to be memorized: Wynken, Blynken and Nod, Intry Mintry, Little Boy Blue, Sugar Plum Tree, The Duel, and The Shut Eye Train; The Children's Hour, Day-break, The Village Blacksmith, and selections from *Hiawatha*.

GRADE IV—Poets—Alice and Phoebe Cary. Poems to be memorized: The Little Blacksmith, November, Never Give Up, Chicken's Mistakes, Take Care, Suppose, Now, The Wise Fairy, The Old Homestead, The Good Little Sister, A Legend of the Northland, They Didn't Think, Three Bugs, Story of a Blackbird, Little Children, and Obedience.

GRADE V—Poet—Whittier, Poems: The Frost Spirit, A Dream of Summer, Corn Song, The River Path, The Robin, Red Riding Hood, Trail-ing Arbutus, How the Robin Came; or selections from The Barefoot Boy, Barbara Freitchie, and Snow Bound.

GRADE VI—Poet—Lowell. Poems: The First Snowfall, The Nest, Beaver Brook, To the Dandelion, and selections from The Vision of Sir Launfal.

GRADES VII AND VIII — Poet — Tennyson. Poems: The Brook, The Bugle Song, The May Queen, The Death of the Old Year, Sweet and Low, Break, Break, Break; Flower of the Cran-nied Wall, Charge of the Light Brigade; selections from *Idylls of the King*, and *Enoch Arden*.

## PENMANSHIP

In all subjects, accept only written work carefully and neatly done. Remember that your pupils will become good penmen, not so much by excellent teaching and thoroughness during the



writing period, as by your insisting that every specimen of writing in connection with the other subjects be well done. Also the children are getting their ideas of the forms of the letters, and possibly their ideals of penmanship generally, from your work on the board and on written slips. At all times, insist on (a) good pen, kept clean, and ink free from dust, or a well pointed pencil of sufficient length, (b) not scraps of paper, but clean symmetrical pieces, (c) correct position of body, (d) correct holding of pen or pencil, (e) correct position of paper or book, and (f) neatness and accuracy of letter-forms and in the outline and general appearance of the work on the page or paper. Never have the writing period immediately after vigorous muscular exertion or much written work.

GRADES I TO III—A few minutes at least once every day devoted to copying words and sentences from the board and from slips. At first, have the children make their writing large, allowing them to write on the board as often as possible. Preserve and exhibit all work carefully and neatly done. Explain to the pupils that the best specimens of their written work in all subjects will be in competition with those of other children and other schools at the annual town exhibit of school work to be held at the close of the year.

GRADES IV TO VIII—Ten to twenty minutes devoted to writing three to five times a week. In Grade IV begin with ink and copy books. Use Merrill's Modern Slant, the number of the book to be chosen by each teacher for her own pupils. Before writing in the book, always copy the forms upon practice paper until familiar with them. As a rule, two or three times as much writing should be done on practice paper as in the book. For additional suggestions, read the two preceding paragraphs. In Grades IV to VI, it is well to teach printing, allowing the pupils occasionally to use colored crayons. This is not only of value in itself, but it adds variety and interest to the handiwork and indirectly improves the writing. In these grades, allow no pupil to hand in exclusively written or printed work; insist on his doing well some of each. Endeavor to make your pupils write the best of any in town.

## COURSE OF STUDY—ADOPTED IN 1905 in GEOGRAPHY, HISTORY, PHYSIOLOGY, and PHYSICAL CULTURE

### GEOGRAPHY

GRADE III—Once or twice a week. General lessons. Cardinal points of the compass, use of maps and globes, principal land and water forms. Connecticut: position, boundaries, surface, important rivers, harbors, climate, occupations, chief cities, N.Y. N.H. & H. Railroad, counties, Fairfield County, and Town of Fairfield. Draw on the board an outline map of the State, filling in, as studied, the rivers, counties, and Town of Fairfield. Then take imaginary trips from the nearest station to various cities, harbors, lakes and places of interest, studying each as you visit it and tracing on the map in colored chalk the routes you take. Read to the children from geographical readers and interest them in children of other lands and the countries in which they live.

GRADE IV—Three or four times a week. Review and amplify the work of Grade III. Begin First Geography Book and take introductory chapters, North America, United States, and groups of States, emphasizing the New England States. Draw on the board an outline map of North America, filling in, as studied, the boundaries, principal mountain ranges, rivers, cities, etc. of the United States and the groups of States. As in Grade III, take imaginary trips, studying each place or object as you visit it, and trace on the map your routes. Correlate with all work in geography as much of history as is practicable. Have this grade and the next read together "Around the World, Book I" and, if possible, other geographical readers and the "Elementary Science Readers, I, and II".

GRADE V—Four or five times a week. Review the work of Grade IV. Complete the First Book, studying Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, and South America. A detailed study of North America and the possessions of the United States. As in Grade IV, make use of outline maps and imaginary trips; also have the pupils fill in note books and outline maps. Use many pictures to give clear conceptions. Besides the supplementary reading in connection with Grade IV, encourage individual reading of books of travel, by supplying the pupils with titles of desirable



books of this sort in the Library and in all other ways suggested to the teacher. Rapid card and blackboard drill on location of important mountains, rivers, lakes, gulfs, bays, seas, and cities, and on boundaries and capitals of the principal countries. Also master a few leading productions and industries of the various sections of the United States and other countries of the world.

GRADE VI—Review the drill work of Grade V. Begin the Advanced Geography and cover the Chapters on physical geography, the United States, detailed study of all the Groups of States, other countries of North America, and South America. A detailed study of the Western Hemisphere, topically treated, covering land and water forms, climates, productions, industries, cities, political divisions, commercial routes, etc. Make use of note books, outline maps, and read with the next grade "Around the World, Books II, and III" and the "Elementary Science Reader, III". Correlate with this grade's work as much of history as is possible, and encourage individual reading of books of travel. Continue and amplify rapid drill work as in Grade V.

GRADE VII—Review the drill work of Grade VI. Complete the Advanced Geography and prepare for the Bridgeport examination. A detailed study of the Eastern Hemisphere, topically treated, as was outlined for the Western Hemisphere in Grade VI. Detailed review of New England, especially of Connecticut. Detailed review of the whole field of geography, especially of place-geography. Fill in note books and outline maps, read in class occasionally geography readers, and encourage individual reading of books of travel. Give many written tests. After Easter Vacation, use Regents Question Book, or equivalent.

## AMERICAN HISTORY

GRADES III AND IV—Once a week. Simple history stories and reading from supplementary history readers. History stories told and reproduced in connection with geography and language work.

GRADE V—Three times a week. Mowry's First Book in American History. Discuss the text and require the memorizing of but few facts, these the most important and to serve as a nucleus

for the topical arrangement of many future facts. Encourage individual reading of history stories and books; give your pupils the titles of the best books of history, suited to their age and interest, in the Library. Read to the pupils the choicest historical and patriotic poems and prose selections. Develop a love for one's country, honor for its institutions, obedience to its laws, reverence for its flag, pride in its past, and faith and hope in its future. Rapid drill on the following dates: 1492, 1607, 1620, 1759, 1776, 1789, 1803, 1812, 1849, 1861, 1876, 1898. Important events in Connecticut history. Correlate with language and geography.

GRADE VI—The large History begun. Review dates of Grade V and add for drill work the following: 1565, 1619, 1634, 1775, 1781, 1820, 1846, 1854, 1893. Master the important facts concerning the Explorations and Settlements. The text is to be read and discussed and the leading facts memorized, these to be added topically to those already learned in the preceding grades. Make geography and biography the foundation of history work and correlate with language. If possible, complete as a supplementary reader, Gordy's "American Leaders and Heroes." Local history. In the middle of this year begin the history note-books.

GRADE VII—Rapid drill on the dates previously given and on important topics logically arranged. Take from the Inter-Colonial Wars to the beginning of the Civil War, arranging as cause and effect the leading facts and memorizing them. Interest the pupils to read by themselves suitable books of history, supplying them with list of such books to be found in the Library. Read in class Hoxie's "How the People Rule". Continue the note-books.

GRADE VIII—Rapid drill on dates and important facts topically arranged. Finish the large History and review the whole subject, preparing for the Bridgeport examination about March 1. Before using additional texts, source readers, and reference books, be careful to wait until the pupils have first from their own book a nucleus of mental associations, properly co-ordinated about a given topic; otherwise, the result is cramming, confusion, and decrease of interest in the subject. Conduct the history recitations upon lines, geographical, biographical, progressive as to cause and effect, and always topical.



Continue the note-books. See the outlines of preceding grades for further suggestions. Give frequent written tests.

## PHYSIOLOGY

**GRADES I TO IV**—Once a week. General lessons on physiology, emphasizing the hygiene side of the subject. Teach the importance of health for all success in life and the simple rules for preserving and increasing this. Grades III and IV read together Blaisdell's "Child's Book of Health".

**GRADES V, VI AND VII**—Once a week. Have children own and study Stowell's "A Healthy Body", or equivalent. As in preceding grades, have the work in this subject count for large health and more successful living. Allow no vivisection or anything else having a tendency to make boys cruel. In treating alcohol and narcotics, do not preach, but concisely and forcefully show the possible ill-health and the certain curtailment of material success that will come to those who habitually use these things.

## PHYSICAL CULTURE

All grades use Bancroft's "School Gymnastics".

Mixed schools. Separate into two groups or grades. Give each Grade five minutes a day. Grade B take First and Second Series in the Book. Grade A take Third and Fourth Series. Have Grade B take their work in the A.M., and Grade A in the P.M. If after one or more year's use of Bancroft's "School Gymnastics," higher Series are not found too difficult for either grade, these may be substituted for those mentioned above. Close or exact grading is not necessary in this branch, neither is physical exercise—although every movement given has for its object health and bodily control—nor the ability to go through imperfectly a large number of movements. Rather, prompt and accurate obedience and the perfect execution of a few movements, not by individuals, but by the grade as one individual, are the desired goal.

Schools with two departments. Divide the primary department into two grades. Grade B take the First Series and part of the Second. Grade A take the Second Series and part of the Third. The grammar department need not be divided. Let it take as a whole the Third Series

and part of the Fourth. Read the suggestions under Mixed Schools above.

Schools with three or more departments. Divide lowest primary into two grades. Grade B take First Series and Grade A the Second Series. The other departments need not be divided. The advanced primary review the Second Series and take the Third Series. The intermediate department review the Third Series and take the Fourth. The grammar department take the Fifth and Sixth Series. Read the suggestions under Mixed Schools above.

## COURSE OF STUDY—ADOPTED 1905, in READING and SPELLING

### READING

**GRADE I**—The Ward Primer and one or more supplementary primers. FOLLOW CLOSELY THE WARD TEACHER'S MANUAL. Secure good expression from the start. Read twice a day. Read many stories to the children.

**GRADE II**—The Ward First Reader and three other first readers, if possible. FOLLOW CLOSELY THE MANUAL. Talk over every story with the class until they get the thought. Read over several times every selection the children like. However much time it takes, secure good expression; it can be done, insist on securing it. Have one of the best readers, of course not always the same pupil, read first in class. Read twice a day. Read many stories to the children.

**GRADE III**—The Ward Second Reader and as many supplementary readers as possible. FOLLOW CLOSELY THE MANUAL. Insist on good expression. Encourage the children to read easy stories by themselves. Discover all the best books adapted to this grade in the Library and help your pupils in selecting these. If possible, read twice a day. Read to the children several choice books.

**GRADE IV**—The Ward Third Reader and either Stepping Stones to Literature, Book III or the Morse Third and Fourth Readers, with other supplementary readers, if possible. Continue phonic drills. Secure good expression. Cultivate in your pupils a love for good reading. Acquaint yourself with the best books for this grade in the Library and help your children in selecting these. Occasionally read to them a story



or a part of an interesting book. Require each child, unless for good cause, to read during the year ten library books from a list of at least twenty-five books selected by the teacher.

GRADE V—The Ward Fourth Reader and Stepping Stones to Literature, Book IV with other supplementary readers, if possible. Be sure the children get the thought of all they read. Do not read so many books that the class cannot read over several times every selection they enjoy. Secure good expression and continue syllabication, diacritical marks, and phonetic drill. For cultivating the library habit in your pupils, see Grade IV. Ten books to be read by each pupil from the teacher's selected list of at least twenty-five books.

GRADE VI—Three times a week. Stepping Stones to Literature, Book V and supplementary readers. Continue syllabication, diacritical marks, and phonetic drill. Be sure the children understand the meaning of the words and get the thought of selections read. Encourage every child to own and to use a small, but good, dictionary. Occasionally read to your pupils enough of a book you wish to interest them in to make them borrow the book and finish it. Twelve books to be read by each pupil from the teacher's list of at least twenty-five books.

GRADE VII—Three times a week. Stepping Stones to Literature, Book VI or equivalent, Hoxie's "How the People Rule", and other supplementary readers. Continue syllabication, diacritical marks and phonetic drill. See Grade VI for further suggestions. Fifteen books from teacher's list to be read by each pupil.

GRADE VIII—Two or three times a week. Stepping Stones to Literature, Book VII or equivalent. Lead the children to observe and appreciate the beauties and peculiarities of the different selections. Seek to arouse an interest in the leading authors by discussing some of the most interesting points in their lives. Study figures of speech and styles of expression, and continue use of dictionary for pronunciation and meaning of unfamiliar words. In this grade, do not seek so much to read a large amount as to appreciate and give correct expression to all that is read. Fifteen books from teacher's list to be read by each pupil.

## SPELLING

GRADES I AND II—In connection with reading. Follow closely the directions for spelling in Ward's Manual of Reading, pages 29 to 31 and 69 to 72.

GRADE III—Follow closely the Ward Rational Speller, Part I. Book in teacher's hands and lessons put on the blackboard. Spell both orally and by writing. In dictating for written spelling, give the pupils plenty of time to write well. If possible, pronounce each word but once. In this and the following grades, give spelling its full quota of time and attention; grade the pupils closely in this branch and accept only excellent work. In addition to the regular spelling lesson, require pupils to learn all important words in the other lessons.

GRADE IV—The Quincy Word List in the hands of the pupils. Pages 40 to 56, group 17. On pages 118 to 140, select about one fourth of the words, choosing those best adapted to this grade. In Grades IV to VIII, observe the following steps, all of which need not be taken in one period, suggested by Supt. Chas. W. Deane of Bridgeport, Conn. 1. Presentation of printed words on chart or words written by the teacher on the board. The more difficult words to be selected for special teaching. 2. Pronunciation of all the words, which are to be in plain view, by the pupils correctly and distinctly. 3. Oral spelling of the words, which are to be in view, by the pupils correctly and distinctly; the words to be divided into syllables and the syllables separately pronounced. 4. Difficulties carefully pointed out by the teacher. Do not call attention to possible errors, but emphasize the correct feature; e.g. SEPARATE, lead pupils to notice that the second syllable is a; FEASIBLE, second syllable is i, etc. 5. Copying the words by pupils. See that they are copied correctly and are plainly written. 6. Pupils' oral spelling of the words by syllables from memory. 7. Pupils write the words from memory, not dividing into syllables.

GRADE V—The Quincy Word List, pages 56 to 72, group 32. Also, on pages 118 to 140, select a second fourth of the words, choosing those best adapted to this grade. See suggestions in Grade IV.



GRADE VI—The Quincy Word List, pages 72 to 88. Also, on pages 118 to 140, select a third fourth of the words, those best adapted to this grade. See suggestions in Grade IV.

GRADE VII—The Quincy Word List, pages 89 to 110. Also, complete the words on pages 118 to 140. Prepare for the Bridgeport examination to come at the end of this grade's work. See suggestions in Grade IV.

GRADE VIII—Second half of the year. The Quincy Word List. Review 5 words a day on pages 50, 51, 62, 63, 75, and 87 and take 6 to 7 new words each day on pages 110 to 117. Also, review the most difficult words on pages 118 to 140.

\* \* \*

This hand written letter was found in the book **THE UNDERGROUND RAILWAY — from SLAVERY TO FREEDOM** by **WILBUR H. SIEBERT** in Pequot Library, Southport, Conn.

#### *Abolitionism*

My first recollections of "Abolition of Slavery" was from conversation between my father and his abolitionist friends heard by me in my earliest childhood. He was a "rank abolitionist" and an agent of the underground railroad. I have frequently heard from my mother's lips about their harboring the black man as he was being guided by the north star toward Freedom. Canada was their destination. At one time five persons were kept three days and two nights, one man's wife and mother-in-law were of the part. The mother-in-law was taken sick and as it was unsafe for a slave to be seen in daylight, Mother and Father had to be Doctor and Nurse. As related to me, the programme was about as follows. About 9 p.m. a timid knock was heard at the door; the question "Dis Massa Main?" Answer "Yes, boys, come in." The guests were fed and made comfortable. The next night they were speeded to the next station Sandy Hook a suburb of Newtown, Conn. In my young womanhood my father took me on a trip up the Hudson River and pointed out to me the place where once lived the old ferryman who brought them across to the Connecticut shore. While still a child I was enchanted by the

story of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" written by Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe. I shed tears freely at the sorrows of the poor unhappy slave, and laughed as heartily at Topsy's capers. Later I read Mr. Lincoln's "Emancipation Proclamation" giving freedom to the negro, lived through the struggle of the cruel "Civil War." Among some of the stories told me by Mother was one of a woman on the line whose name I have unfortunately forgotten, who harbored four stalwart darkies being suspicioned of the fact—the house was searched, but unsuccessfully. As the raiders were about leaving the woman said: "There is one place you have not searched, and handed them her "best bonnet" saying that "The crown is large." They left disappointed and chagrined and the four darkies were safely stowed between two large feather beds, said bed nicely made up. Among other good friends of the "runaway" was Capt. Johnson who often was guilty (not found) of "aiding and abetting" the escaping darkey on his boat running from New York to Stamford, Connecticut.

Signed: Cornelia M. Gregory

\* \* \*

In the "Connecticut Directory of the Names of Underground Railroad Operators", Benjamin Jas. Daskam was listed from Fairfield.

\* \* \*

#### THE SASQUANAUG ASSOCIATION FOR VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT

cordially invites you to attend a

#### UTILITY SALE

from three to six o'clock, Wednesday afternoon, June twenty-seventh, nineteen hundred and six, on the lawn at the residence of Mrs. Oliver Bulkley, Southport, Connecticut.

There will be an opportunity to purchase APRONS of every kind, BAGS in variety, HOLDERS and other similar USEFUL HOUSEHOLD ARTICLES: also CAKE and delicious home-made CANDIES. For the children's especial entertainment there will be drawing from a GARDEN OF FLOWERS, each flower bearing at its roots a pretty gift.

Another feature will be FORTUNE TELLING by one who has made a special study of the mystic and occult. Ice Cream and other refreshments, with cooling drinks, will be served. Pleasing music will add charm to the occasion.

Should the weather, on the afternoon named, prove "stormy", the sale will be held on the next succeeding fair afternoon.



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And many, many personal documents loaned by as many generous persons.



## INDEX OF PERSONS, PLACES, AND OTHER PROPER NAMES

**No attempt has been made to distinguish between persons with identical forms of name. With a few exceptions, street names and documentary sources and citations have not been indexed.**

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